

UNHCR IN SAO PAULO

Covering the Southeast and South regions and the states of RN, PB, PE, AL, SE and BA



UNHCR SUPPORTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MUNICIPAL INTERSECTORAL COMMITTEE ON POLICIES OF ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES, IMMIGRANTS, AND STATELESS PERSONS OF RIO DE JANEIRO (COMPARM-RIO)



Signature of Decree establishing COMPARM-Rio.
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The UNHCR Office in São Paulo met with Mayor Eduardo Paes, in February, to deepen the cooperation between UNHCR and the City of Rio de Janeiro. On that occasion, the mayor signed the decree that formalized the creation of the Municipal Intersectoral Committee on Policies of Assistance for Refugees, Immigrants, and Stateless Persons of Rio de Janeiro (COMPARM-Rio). The initiative aims to defend and promote the human rights of these people and the elaboration and implementation of municipal public policies of this population.



FÓRUM NACIONAL DE
CONSELHOS E COMITÊS
ESTADUAIS PARA
REFUGIADOS E MIGRANTES

CREATION OF THE NATIONAL FORUM OF STATE COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

In March, under the leadership of the Committee for the Attention to Migrants, Refugees, Stateless Persons and Victims of Trafficking in Persons of Rio Grande do Sul (COMIRAT-RS), the first National Meeting of State Councils and Committees for Refugees and Migrants was held. With technical and mobilizing support from UNHCR, the meeting was attended by representatives of 10 Brazilian states to create a national representative body for the attention of refugee and migrant populations, the National Forum. The Forum is a self-managed and horizontal space for mobilization, dialogue and articulation composed by the State Councils and Committees that deal with the themes of refugee and migration in the country. Further details at acnur.org.br/politicas-publicas



Refugees of different nationalities participated in Rio Carnival Parade 2022 with Acadêmicos do Salgueiro.
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UNHCR SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH THE SAMBA SCHOOL GRES ACADÊMICOS DO SALGUEIRO

In March, UNHCR partnered with GRES Acadêmicos do Salgueiro to promote the inclusion of refugee people in the carnival parade and in the social services promoted by the samba school, working together for the visibility of this first-ever initiative. With the support of the partners SOS Children's Village Brazil and Caritas Arquidiocesana do Rio de Janeiro, 20 refugees of five nationalities paraded on April 23rd at Marquês de Sapucaí, in Rio de Janeiro. They represented the resilience and diversity of the refugee population in Brazil. In addition to the wide press coverage, the refugees made a landmark immersion in Brazilian culture and returned to the Sambadrome for the Champions' Parade in the following weekend. A documentary about this project is being produced and will be launched in the second semester.



UNHCR representative Jose Egas signs cooperation term with Niterói's Mayor, Axel Grael.

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UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE PROMOTES AGENDA IN RIO DE JANEIRO AND SANTA CATARINA STATES

The UNHCR Representative in Brazil, Jose Egas, was in Rio de Janeiro and Niterói in March to conduct an agenda of UNHCR agreements with various institutions to support the cause of refugees. In Niterói (RJ), the Representative spoke with the three state universities (UFF, PUC-Rio and UERJ), that are part of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair (CSVM), on the revalidation of refugee diplomas and means of supporting research on the theme of forced displacement. Egas also went to Moisés Kabagambe Migrants and Refugees Center and, in April, signed a cooperation term with the municipality to promote integration mechanisms for the refugee population. In this same month, UNHCR Representative in Brazil met the dean of UFSC (member of CSVM) in Florianópolis to

launch the Program for Refugees or People with Humanitarian Visas, aiming to enter higher education. During his visit to Santa Catarina state, Jose Egas was also welcomed by the Migration Office of the Superintendent's Chief of the Federal Police in Florianópolis. In Itajaí, the Representative had a meeting with the dean of the University of Vale do Itajaí (UNIVALI) to learn about the actions developed by the university and the project to support the pre-documentation of refugees and asylum seekers and other initiatives carried out in the scope of the CSVM.

PROTECTION AND LOCAL INTEGRATION

STRENGTHENING SPECIALIZED LOCAL POLICIES

Tenure of the Committee for the Preparation and Monitoring of the Municipal Policy Plan for the Migrant, Refugee, Stateless and Returned Population of Juiz de Fora/MG and leveling workshop for its members

In February, UNHCR participated in the tenure of the Committee for the Preparation and Monitoring of the Municipal Policy Plan for the Migrant, Refugee, Stateless and Returned Population of Juiz de Fora/MG, organized by the municipality. The Committee has equal composition between members of civil society and the government and has the task of formulating, elaborating, monitoring, and evaluating the Municipal Plan. After the tenure ceremony, UNHCR and IOM held a leveling workshop for the committee members, addressing topics such as conceptualization, regulations, and rights, as well as protection, local integration and public policies for these populations. UNHCR will support the elaboration of the Municipal Policy Plan for Refugees and Migrants of Juiz de Fora.



Representatives from UNHCR and several other institutions participated in the initiative. ©MPF/RJ

Strengthening of access to international protection at Tom Jobim International Airport (Galeão)

As part of UNHCR efforts to ensure access to international protection and social assistance support for refugees and migrants at Galeão International Airport, a monitoring and flow assessment visit was carried out in February in the airport's restricted area. In this visit, guidelines were defined for the establishment of new flows of identification and assistance for refugees and migrants in need of protection in the restricted areas of the airport, as well as strategies to expand access to information for these populations. In April, the UNHCR Office in São Paulo (in partnership with Caritas Rio) held a training session with the staff of the Migrant Assistance Center of the same airport on pre-documentation, focusing on filling out data on the CONARE's system.

Horizon Operation (Operação Horizonte) in São Paulo

In January, the Federal Police of São Paulo launched a documentation task force for refugees and migrants' regularization in São Paulo. The initiative focused on the pre-documentation guidance and the scheduling at DELEMIG in São Paulo for refugees and vulnerable migrants who were attended by the Integration and Citizenship Center (CIC do Imigrante). The action was supported by UNHCR, IOM, DPU, and several civil society organizations. UNHCR continues to support Operation Horizon and has helped more than 900 refugees, asylum seekers and migrants to obtain their documents.

Operation Welcome (Operação Acolhida)

On April 4th and 5th, took place the XXV Strategic Studies Meeting: Operation Welcome - perspectives and challenges. The UNHCR office in São Paulo participated in the round table "Inter-ministerial cooperation - the interagency perspective of Operation Welcome", presenting the interagency cooperation implemented in the UN scope and how the international regulations were implemented in the Operation Welcome.



30 CSVM volunteers previously trained supported with verification of documents and completion of SICONARE under the supervision of UNHCR.

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Warao Community Documentation Task Force in Belo Horizonte (MG)

In partnership with the Public Defensory of Union (DPU), Caritas Regional Minas Gerais, Federal Policy Department (DPF) and the universities that are members of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair (PUC-Minas and UFMG), a joint effort of documentation was held in February in Belo Horizonte (MG), which benefited 71 asylum seekers from 14 families of a Warao Indigenous community hosted by the City Hall, with the support of Caritas. Among other challenges, a high number of undocumented children was identified, resulting in difficulties for education enrollment, among other protection risks. All identified cases had the support of UNHCR to respond to each specific needs.

Visit of the São Paulo's Municipal Secretary of Social Assistance to Boa Vista/RR

Between April 27th and 29th, UNHCR supported the mission of the Municipal Secretary of Social Assistance of the city of São Paulo, Carlos Bezerra Jr., to Boa Vista and Pacaraima/RR. The mission aimed to present the sheltering response and strategies implemented by UNHCR and Operation Welcome, contributing to public policy actions to be adopted in the municipality.

TRAINING SESSIONS

In January, two training sessions were held on Protection and Community Integration of LGBTQIA+ Refugees and Migrants, with the objective of strengthening work, guaranteeing specialized assistance and contributing to the expansion of networks of support and safe spaces for the LGBTQIA+ refugee and migrant population. As a result, eight maps on local support networks in the states of the Southeast, South and the state of Bahia were made available to partner organizations and to the LGBTQIA+ refugee and migrant population, present on the [Help platform](#).

In April, UNHCR carried out training sessions for the Social Assistance network of the municipality of Guarulhos (SP) on the rights, documentation, and specificities of refugees. In coordination with the Advanced Post for Humanized Assistance to Migrants and Refugees, two groups of public servants participated in the training, totaling 240 people, from the areas of social assistance, human rights, health and education in the municipality. In Osasco (SP), UNHCR signed a partnership with the Executive Secretariat for Public Policies and Promotion of Racial Equality (SEPPIR) to train government actors in the city. In the capital, working in partnership with Sesc and the Municipal Department of Education, UNHCR continues to support the training of public school teachers through the Refúgios Humanos project, providing information and presenting proposals on how to make schools and classrooms more inclusive and productive environments for refugee children.

UNHCR Help Platform hits record visits in 2021

In 2021, the UNHCR Help platform increased the number of visits and users by more than 300% in a year (in 2020 there were 88,500 visits and 65,000 users, while in 2021 there were 374,000 visits and 281,000 users). Launched in Brazil in 2018, the Help platform facilitates access to information for refugee people seeking protection in the country. Available in five languages (Portuguese, Spanish, English, French and Arabic), the platform offers information on document regularization, health and education, among other topics of interest. Access: help.acnur.org

RESULTS FROM UNHCR'S PARTNERS IN 2021

UNHCR-supported NGO Compassiva diploma revalidation program

The UNHCR-supported NGO Compassiva diploma revalidation program was initiated in 2016 as a result of a demand from refugees and asylum seekers filed the previous year. In 2021, the project revalidated 50 diplomas, in areas such as Administration, Accounting, Economic Sciences, Engineering, Journalism, Pedagogy, among others. The universities that most revalidated diplomas with project support were UFRJ (10), UFF (9), UFPEL (7), UFG (5), UFABC (5), and UENF (4).

Access to microcredit for refugee and migrant entrepreneurs

In 2021, Banco do Povo Crédito Solidário (BPCS) supported 102 refugees and migrants in São Paulo through a specific microcredit line for this population. Regarding the profile of the beneficiaries, 60% were men and 40% women.

Employability Program for Refugees and Migrants of the Peace Mission

The organization Missão Paz, a UNHCR partner in São Paulo, registered curriculum and guidance on the labor market in Brazil for 1324 refugees and migrants in 2021. In addition, the organization's Employability Axis promoted the hiring of 151 refugees and migrants of various nationalities (including 59 Venezuelans) by 65 employers.

Refugee Relocation Support Program (PARR) closes 2021 with 54 hires

The Refugee Relocation Support Program (PARR), implemented by the EMDOC immigration consultancy with UNHCR support, achieved the effective hiring of 54 people in 2021. In all, 125 people were served, 96 of which were new registrations, covering a total of 8 nationalities: Venezuela, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cuba, Syria, Namibia, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

2021 Interiorization for the South, Southeast and Bahia

Throughout 2021, 16,101 Venezuelan people participated in the Interiorization Strategy for the South, Southeast, and State of Bahia, in all modalities of Interiorization. Of these, Santa Catarina figures as the state that received the most in this period, totaling 5,383 people, followed by Paraná and Rio Grande do Sul, which received 3,737 and 3,213 people, respectively. During this period, UNHCR São Paulo supported the Interiorization Strategy, totaling more than 660 vacancies made available.



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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.

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