



UNHCR
ACNUR
Agência da ONU para Refugiados

Protection and Assistance to the Afghan Population in Brazil

SEPTEMBER 2022



Conversation group with Afghan women at the headquarters of Caritas São Paulo in July 2022: dialogue to identify needs and strengthen the protection of refugees from Afghanistan in Brazil. ©UNHCR / Joana Lopes

On 3 September 2022, UNHCR marks the one-year anniversary of the publication of Interministerial Ordinance no. 24/2021, which establishes the temporary visa and residence permit for humanitarian reasons for Afghan nationals, stateless persons and persons affected by the situation in Afghanistan.

The response to the humanitarian needs of these people in Brazil is the result of a collective effort of multiple counterparts: public authorities, civil society organizations, academia, the private sector and international organizations.

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is part of this response and works in partnership with different stakeholders to ensure and strengthen access to information, rights and services.

BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 2021 AND AUGUST 2022

5,846

humanitarian visas were authorized through the Ordinance

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

2,240

Afghans entered Brazil

Source: Federal Police

MULTISECTORAL ASSISTANCE AND PROFILE OF PEOPLE SERVED

UNHCR counts on the partnership with civil society organizations to offer free support on various areas, such as access to information and guidance on documentation, housing, health, education, Portuguese language courses, work opportunities, among others.

UNHCR's partner teams act in a specialized manner and complement the policies and public services offered by local networks.

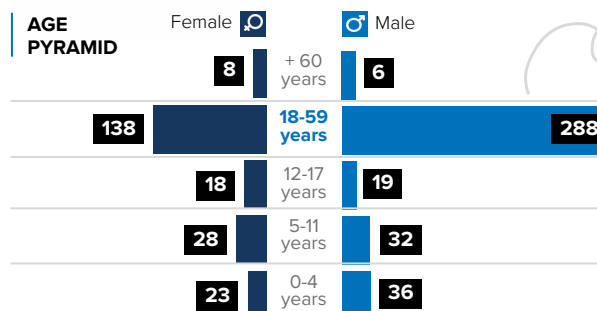
BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 2021 AND AUGUST 2022

Source: UNHCR ProGres registration system

596

Afghans assisted by UNHCR and partner organizations

283 family groups

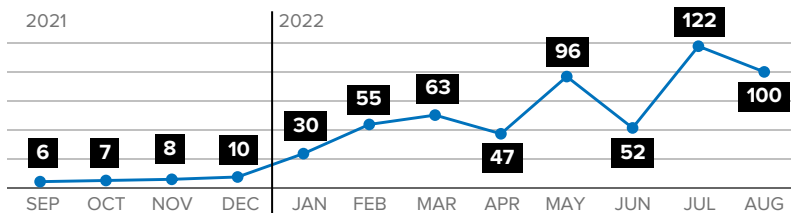


OF THE 426 PEOPLE BETWEEN 18 AND 59 YEARS OF AGE

50% (212) have a college education

5% (19) have a post-graduate degree

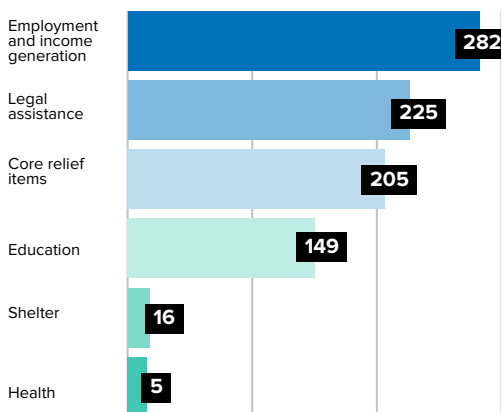
EVOLUTION IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ASSISTED



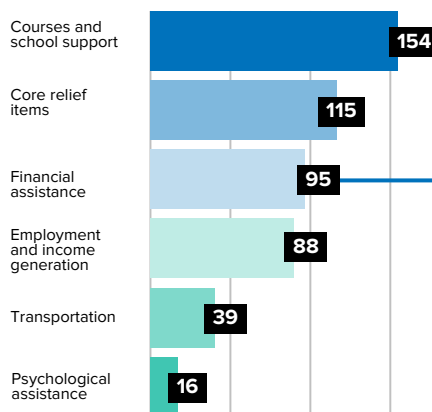
NUMBER OF PEOPLE ASSISTED BY PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS¹



REFERRALS BY AREA



DIRECT ASSISTANCE BY AREA



SINCE AUGUST 2021
127 Afghans
received emergency financial support from UNHCR, benefiting **30 family groups**

1. In addition to the cases registered above in the proGres system, another 9 people have already been assisted by Caritas Brasileira Regional Paraná (CAPR) and 39 by the Migration and Human Rights Institute (IMDH), mainly with documentation and legal assistance services.

GUIDANCE UPON ARRIVAL

In addition to the assistance provided by partner organizations, UNHCR has also supported local networks to offer guidance and shelter assistance in a safe and culturally sensitive manner.



At Guarulhos International Airport (SP), one of the main "gateways" into Brazil, refugees from Afghanistan find humanized assistance and safe information about services and rights in the country. ©UNHCR / Miguel Pachioni

Advanced Post of Humanized Assistance to Migrants (PAAHM)

The Advanced Post of Humanized Assistance to Migrants, a municipal facility located at Guarulhos International Airport, has registered an **average of 200 Afghan nationals assisted per month**, and the local network is under great demand to shelter newcomers. Since 2015, UNHCR has been working in partnership with the Secretariat of Development and Social Assistance of Guarulhos to strengthen the work of PAAHM. Since 2022, UNHCR has supported the Post in receiving people with the assistance of an Afghan cultural mediator and interpreter as part of this effort.

AN AVERAGE OF
200
people assisted per month
Source: PAAHM

SHELTER

Working Group on Migration

In view of the challenges related to shelter assistance of Afghans in São Paulo, the **Working Group on Migration** was established in June 2022, led by the Secretariat of Social Development of the state of São Paulo, with the participation of state, municipal, and federal agencies, civil society organizations, and UNHCR. This is an initiative aimed at strengthening coordination efforts for protection and shelter assistance of Afghan refugees, asylum-seekers or residence permit holders for humanitarian purposes in the state of São Paulo. It is important to highlight that, as a result of the WG, there was an additional effort made by the municipalities of São Paulo, Guarulhos and the state of São Paulo in establishing and adapting emergency shelters to host the Afghan population.

Temporary shelter network in the city of São Paulo

BETWEEN JANUARY AND JULY 2022

 **191** Afghans sheltered

Source: Municipal Secretariat for Social Assistance and Development of São Paulo

Terra Nova Transit Center of the Government of the state of São Paulo

BETWEEN JANUARY AND AUGUST 2022

 **83** Afghans sheltered

Source: Regional Director of Social Assistance and Development, CAS/Secretariat of Social Development

Missão Paz

SINCE AUGUST 2021

 **250** Afghans sheltered

Currently, of the 80 people sheltered at the "**Migrant House**", 40 are Afghan

Source: Missão Paz



Newly arrived Afghan family in Brazil is sheltered at the Todos Irmãos Shelter, implemented by UNHCR, Caritas São Paulo, Caritas Guarulhos and Guarulhos City Hall. ©UNHCR / Miguel Pachioni

Todos Irmãos Temporary Shelter

SINCE AUGUST 2022

 **41** Afghans sheltered

Source: Caritas Arquidiocesana de São Paulo

As a result of the partnership between UNHCR, the city of Guarulhos, Caritas Diocesana de Guarulhos and Caritas Arquidiocesana de São Paulo (CASP), the **Todos Irmãos shelter** was inaugurated in August 2022, with a capacity for 27 people. The shelter has six technical staff, including two refugee social educators – one Afghan and one Syrian.

LOCAL INTEGRATION

Education without Borders

The **Tirando de Letra** project, from the Education without Borders Institute (ESF), is a linguistic immersion and citizenship training program that offers classes for refugees and migrants who have just arrived in the country as a way to accelerate their integration process. The course is offered, with support from UNHCR and CASP, at the Ipiranga shelter, a space recently allocated by the city of São Paulo to accommodate 44 single Afghan men aged between 20 and 45.

Missão Paz

AROUND

900

Afghans assisted in the first half of 2022

IMPACT OF UNHCR-FUNDED INITIATIVES

 **105**

Afghans enrolled in Portuguese language classes

 **53**

resumes registered in the work program

 **15**

Afghan men hired

Outreach Volunteers

UNHCR and CASP started a **training project for 40 Afghan outreach volunteers** with the aim of building a support network for Afghans newly arrived in Brazil, in order to strengthen their local integration in the country. The project includes training cycles on Brazilian culture and society, access to rights, documentation, among other topics, aiming to train volunteers to expand outreach and information provision in their respective Afghan communities.

LEARN MORE

UNHCR has sought to disseminate, through the **Help Platform**, key information in English, Pashto and Dari to Afghan nationals seeking protection in Brazil. It also gathers information on the humanitarian response to the Afghan emergency on the website acnur.org.br/afeganistao.



Help

help.unhcr.org/brazil/en/information-for-the-afghan-population



acnur.org.br/afeganistao



Afghan girl praying in Kabul: in the last year, Brazil has already authorized 5,800 humanitarian visas to protect Afghan nationals and other people affected by the humanitarian crisis in that country. ©UNHCR

Partner organizations:



UNHCR Brazil also appreciates the support and partnership of the municipality of Guarulhos, Caritas Diocesana de Guarulhos, the municipality of São Paulo, the Government of the state of São Paulo, the Federal Government, and Education without Borders

UNHCR Brazil is thankful for the support of all its donors, including:



UNHCR Brazil private donors:



UNHCR Brazil, with support from the Sustainable Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Initiative (CRISP)