

UNHCR IN SAO PAULO

Covering the southeast and south regions and the states of RN, PB, PE, AL, SE and BA



**UNHCR
ACNUR**
Agência da ONU para Refugiados

★ HIGHLIGHTS



UNHCR Brazil Deputy Representative, Frederico Martinez, introduced the meeting.
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1st Meeting of the National Forum of State Councils and Committees for Refugees and Migrants

The [meeting](#) was held on July 26th in Natal, Rio Grande do Norte. With technical, logistical, and financial support from UNHCR, and under the leadership of Rio Grande do Norte's Intersectoral State Committee for Refugees and Migrant Services (CERAM-RN), the event included the participation of 10 state councils and committees, CONARE's coordinator, and government and civil society representatives. Unprecedented in Brazil, the 1st Forum Meeting intended to strengthen the dialogue among these stakeholders to overcome challenges and exchange experiences and best practices. Up to the next meeting, expected to occur in March 2023, the national coordination of the Forum will be jointly carried out by the committees of Rio Grande do Norte, Rio Grande do Sul and Rio de Janeiro.

Publication of the 1st "Cities of Solidarity Brazil" Report

On May 16th, UNHCR published the [1st Cities of Solidarity Brazil Report: Protection and Integration of Refugees at the Local Level](#) in a virtual event held in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The Report gathers 27 best practices on protection and integration of refugees and migrants from 17 different municipalities under the themes of education, protection capacity, responsibility sharing, local integration and shelter. The UNHCR Cities of Solidarity initiative highlights efforts made by local governments to implement public policy at the municipal level to promote the protection and integration of refugees and stateless persons.

Inauguration of Temporary Shelter in Guarulhos-SP

The opening of the "Todos Irmãos" Temporary Shelter in Guarulhos-SP took place on August 10th. Through a partnership between UNHCR, the City of Guarulhos, Caritas Diocesana de Guarulhos and Caritas Arquidiocesana de São Paulo, the space offers 27 vacancies for individuals arriving through Guarulhos International Airport that find themselves without immediate accommodation. The airport's Advanced Post for Humanized Assistance to Migrants (PAAHM-GRU), which provides services and orientation to refugees and migrants, will refer the newcomers in situation of vulnerability to the Temporary Shelter to ensure they have a temporary and safe place to stay. In addition to offering humanized assistance to refugees - provided by professionals from Brazil, Syria and Afghanistan - and the provision of food, the Shelter will share information from UNHCR Help Platform to enable those sheltered at "Todos Irmãos" to find local integration options.

World Refugee Day

June 20th is the [World Refugee Day](#) and in 2022 several celebrations promoted awareness of the resilience and determination of this population. Under the motto "Whoever. Wherever. Whenever. Everyone has the right to seek safety", several events were held in the region covered by São Paulo UNHCR Office.

The report "[Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2021](#)" was published in Rio de Janeiro and two libraries were established in São Paulo through the donation of books to the project "[Mi Casa Tu Casa](#)".

Several events were held across different Brazilian cities, highlighting the #RefuTeen project and the release of the book "[UNHCR before and after the Operation Welcome](#)". Agreements and partnerships were signed, including those developed with IDG (Museum of Tomorrow) and SESC Rio de Janeiro.

UNHCR was present at the opening ceremony of the "Kiosk Moïse" in Madureira Park (Rio de Janeiro) built in honor of the Congolese refugee murdered in January, which has been consolidated as a memorial and a symbol of the strength of Congolese culture in the city. Eduardo Paes, the mayor of Rio de Janeiro, was also present at the event.

25 years of the Brazilian Refugee Law

The second episode of the [Refúgio em Pauta podcast](#) in 2022 focused on the development, challenges and achievements seen over [25 years of the Brazilian Refugee Law](#) (n. 9474/97). An [article on the 25th anniversary of the national law](#) was written by UNHCR Deputy Representative Federico Martinez.

ADVOCACY



Signing of Memorandum of Understanding

Between May and August, UNHCR signed several Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with local governments in Brazil, including MoUs with the City of São Paulo, through the Municipal Secretariat for Social Assistance and Development (SMADS); the city of Guarulhos-SP; the Rio Grande do Norte state government; and the city of Araçatuba-SP. Such agreements foresee joint efforts in different areas, such as training sessions and the exchange of experiences with public servants from the municipalities, technical support for developing and revising assistance protocols, and support for strengthening of municipal services. Other MoUs involving the dissemination of UNHCR's campaigns and the development of projects aimed at cultural integration of refugee populations were signed during the period, such as the agreements signed with the "Museu do Amanhã" and Sesc Rio de Janeiro.

2nd Municipal Conference on Policies for Migrant, Refugee, Stateless and Returnee Population in Juiz de Fora-MG

On August 5th, with UNHCR's support, the Municipality of Juiz de Fora held the 2nd Municipal Conference on Policies for Migrant, Refugee, Stateless and Returnee Population. The 2nd Conference was an initiative of the Special Secretariat for Human Rights (SEDH) and the Committee for the Development and Monitoring of the Municipal Plan for Migrants, aimed at compiling contributions for the collaborative development of Juiz de Fora's Municipal Plan. UNHCR has provided support for the event and the process of developing the Municipal Plan. More than 85 participants from civil society, local government, and refugee, migrant, and returnee populations participated in the Conference.



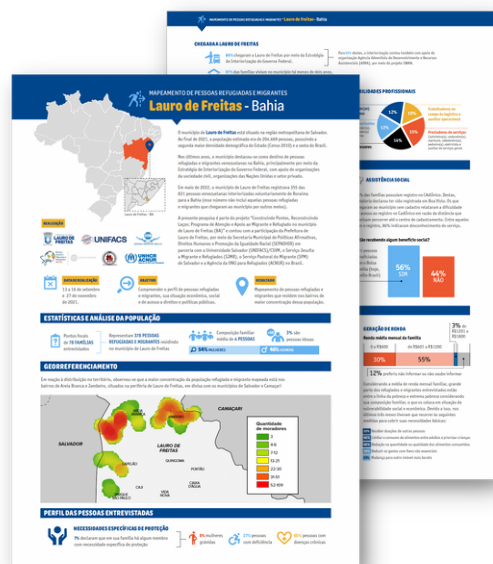
2nd Municipal Conference on Policies for Migrant, Refugee, Stateless and Returnee Population in Juiz de Fora-MG, with the support of UNHCR, IOM and DPU. © UNHCR / Juliana Tubini

PROTECTION

Mapping of Refugees and Migrants of the Municipality of Lauro de Freitas

On June 15th, the Human Rights Secretariat of the Municipality of Lauro de Freitas (Bahia), in partnership with UNHCR, Universidade Salvador (UNIFACS), a member of the Sergio Vieira de Mello Chair, the Jesuit Service for Migrants and Refugees (SJMR) and Serviço Pastoral do Migrante launched the Mapping of Refugees and Migrants of the Municipality of Lauro de Freitas.

The Mapping collected data on access to health services, income, work and the specific needs of the 378 mapped refugees living in the city. In the same occasion, UNHCR team also visited the Immigrant Reference and Support Centre (CRAI), which was inaugurated in May and is the first facility of its kind in Brazil's Northeast region. Implemented by the Municipal Secretariat for Social Development and Citizenship (Semdesc), the Centre offers social, legal, psychological services and referrals to services, programs and public policy initiatives for refugee and migrant populations in the municipality.



Launching of the Community Networks and Service Maps for LGBTQI+ Refugees and Migrants

In partnership with the organization LGBT+Movimento, UNHCR launched the Community Networks and Service Maps for LGBTQI+ Refugees and Migrants in the states of Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Minas Gerais, Espírito Santo, Bahia, Rio Grande do Sul, Paraná and Santa Catarina. The maps offer organizations of reference and provide secure information on locations at which the LGBTQI+ refugee and migrant population can seek assistance. The launch marked the celebration of the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOTB) and was broadcast on [UNHCR's YouTube channel](#).



Conclusion of project #Refuteen

In July, during an event broadcast on [UNHCR's YouTube channel](#), the [#RefuTeen](#) - project developed in partnership with the NGO IKMR - was concluded. The #RefuTeen project was aimed at empowering a group of 20 adolescent refugees and migrants. The project sought to enhance the creation of informative content on social networks, using language and a format that was appropriate to a younger audience, on the realities, experiences, and rights of adolescent refugees and migrants in Brazil.

Access to documentation and registration

Between May and August, UNHCR São Paulo conducted a round of a monitoring process on the access to documentation by refugees and migrants in states in Brazil's South, Southeast and Northeast regions. The information obtained during these monitoring processes will be used to strategically guide efforts such as training local networks, the preparation and implementation of cooperative referral flows - that include Federal Police Departments (DELEMIG), civil society, universities, and public services -, and support for documentation taskforces. Within this context, throughout the second quarter of 2022, UNHCR participated in the organization and implementation of documentation taskforces in Florianópolis-SC, Caxias do Sul-RS, Joinville-SC, Osasco-SP and Rio de Janeiro-RJ, including the training of hundreds of volunteers in pre-documentation procedures and 1,247 refugees and migrants receiving document access services.



UNHCR supports documentation joint efforts in Osasco, Sao Paulo © UNHCR / Unifesp

During the same period, UNHCR provided support to the Federal Police of São Paulo's DELEMIG in implementing Operation Horizon, which completed its second phase in June, helping more than 1,000 refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons, and vulnerable migrants in São Paulo to regularize their documentation. The third phase will extend up to September 9th, 2022 and involve continued support from UNHCR, "CIC do Imigrante", IOM, and partners from civil society.

In recognition of UNHCR's support for the joint efforts organized by São Paulo's and Rio de Janeiro's Regional Federal Courts (March and August, respectively), UNHCR was invited to join the Working Group on support for homeless people - which includes migrants and refugees - established under the National Council of Justice.

Additionally, between June and July, the "Hands and Minds Program", implemented by São Paulo's Municipal Secretariat for Economic Development and Labor, conducted two events aimed at registering refugee and migrant artisans for the purpose of participating in trade fairs and events, in partnership with UNHCR and the Caritas Arquidiocesana de São Paulo.



During the second quarter of 2022, the Federal University of Latin American Integration (UNILA), the University of São Paulo (USP) and the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUC-RS) were integrated into the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair (CSVM). Today, the CSVM initiative includes 35 universities that are currently acting collaboratively within the scope of thematic Working Groups (WGs) that are focused on the Revalidation and Recognition of Diplomas, Language Inclusion and Cultural Mediation, Access to Rights, and Public Policy and Social Indicators. The WGs will implement a range of thematic educational and extension activities during the second half of 2022.

Training

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65 participants in Porto Alegre, Rio de Janeiro, and São Paulo.

Community-Based Protection (CBP) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Between May and July, UNHCR held various training sessions on CBP and GBV to strengthen and broaden community-based approach and activities related to gender at the local level. The training sessions included the participation of partner organizations, municipalities, state committees, refugee and migrant outreach volunteers, and public servants from CG-Conare.

PROTECTION AND INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES AND INDIGENOUS MIGRANTS



Warao training held in Araçatuba, São Paulo © UNHCR / Disclosure

Support for the protection and integration of indigenous Warao refugees

UNHCR continues to support local networks across municipalities and states in order to ensure that culturally sensitive services are provided to the Warao refugee population. Efforts made during the second quarter of 2022 included training on welcoming the Warao population in Feira de Santana-BA, Mossoró and Natal-RN, and Araçatuba-SP, which included participation from more than 140 participants. UNHCR also provided training for 15 employees from the BH Supermarket Network responsible for hiring 10 Warao men to work in their stores. These activities were carried out in cooperation with the organization Caritas Regional de Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte.

LIVELIHOODS

Results achieved in employability

In the first half of 2022, UNHCR's partner organization, Missão Paz, facilitated the hiring of 102 refugees and migrants. This number includes 36 Venezuelans, 24 Angolans, 15 Afghans, and 27 other individuals representing a total of 10 different nationalities. The main employers in the period were hotels, supermarkets, restaurants, language schools, logistics companies, hospitals and local businesses.

Access to microcredit for refugee entrepreneurs

Also in the first semester, Banco do Povo Crédito Solidário, one of UNHCR's partner institutions, reached the mark of 118 refugees and migrants provided with microcredit for entrepreneurship, with a total of R\$ 341 thousand in transactions made. Of those individuals receiving credit, 58% are women, and 61% are active within the informal market. The specific line of credit that is available to refugees and migrants receives support from Kiva organization.



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