



**UNHCR**  
**ACNUR**  
Agência da ONU para Refugiados

# Protection and Assistance to the Afghan Population in Brazil

DECEMBER 2022



Registration of professional profiles of Afghan refugees at the CAE Ebenezer. ©UNHCR / Jawed Ahmadi

BETWEEN 09/01/2021 AND 06/12/2022

 **6,302**

humanitarian visas were authorized through the Ordinance

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

BETWEEN 01/01/2022 AND 31/10/2022

 **3,367**

Afghans entered Brazil

Source: STI-Mar

**Interministerial Ordinance no. 24**, of 3 September 2021, 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.**

## MULTISECTORAL ASSISTANCE AND PROFILE OF PEOPLE OF CONCERN

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.

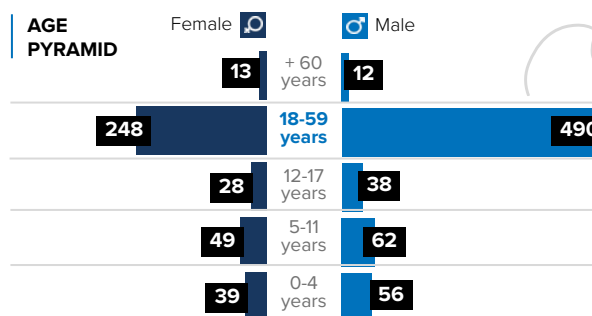
UNHCR's partner teams act in a specialized manner and complement the policies and public services offered by local networks.

BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 2021 AND NOVEMBER 2022  
Source: UNHCR ProGres registration system


 **1,035**


Afghans assisted by UNHCR and partner organizations

**476** family groups

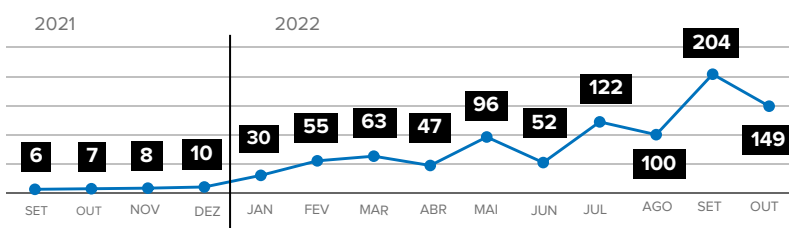


OUT OF THE 738 PEOPLE BETWEEN 18 AND 59 YEARS OF AGE

 **50.4%** (372) have a college education

 **6.5%** (48) have a post-graduate degree

### EVOLUTION IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ASSISTED



### NUMBER OF PEOPLE ASSISTED BY PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS<sup>1</sup>

**708**  
Cáritas São Paulo

**185**  
Missão Paz

**63**  
Instituto Migrações e Direitos Humanos

**44**  
Aldeias Infantis SOS

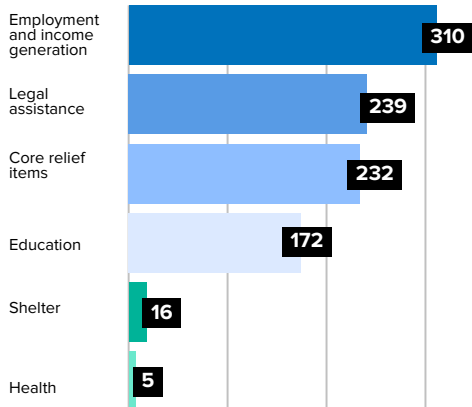
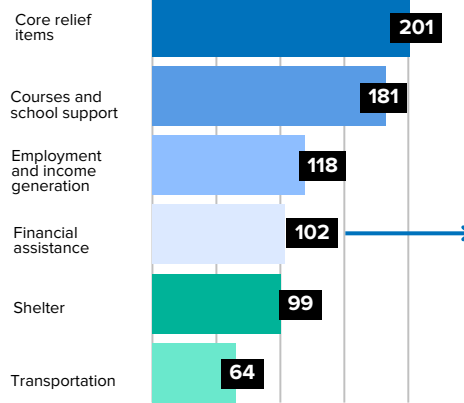
**34**  
Cáritas Rio de Janeiro

**19**  
Cáritas Paraná

**13**  
SJMR Porto Alegre

**9**  
I Know My Rights

**4**  
SJMR Belo Horizonte

**REFERRALS BY AREA**

**DIRECT ASSISTANCE BY AREA**


FROM AUGUST 2021 TO NOVEMBER 2022

**134** Afghans received emergency financial support from UNHCR, benefiting **31 family groups**

1. In addition to the cases registered above in the proGres system, another 9 people have already been assisted by *Cáritas 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 **a total of 1,838 Afghans assisted since January 2022, with an average of 278 assistances/month since June**. The main demand is to shelter newcomers through the local network. Since 2015, UNHCR has been working in partnership with the Secretariat of Development and Social Assistance of Guarulhos to strengthen the work of PAAHM. As part of this effort, since August 2022, **UNHCR has been supporting the Post in welcoming newcomers with three Afghan cultural mediators and interpreters**.

**1,838**

people assisted since jan/2022

Source: PAAHM

**Capacity building activities**

Regular trainings and capacity building activities on topics such as **Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)** and on **access to rights, documentation, and local integration** have been offered by UNHCR to public servants and members of civil society organizations working at shelters who are hosting Afghans, as well as to public servants of the network of the Municipal Social Assistance Secretariat of the City of São Paulo (SMADS).



Public servants and members of civil society organizations trained on CCCM methodologies



Public servants participated in capacity building sessions on access to rights, documentation and local integration

## SHELTER

### Temporary shelter network in the city of São Paulo

BETWEEN JANUARY AND NOVEMBER 2022

OVER **400** Afghans sheltered

120 Afghan people currently housed at the **Ebenezer Specialized Reception Center** and the **Independência Emergency Space**

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

On September 16, 2022, the Municipal Secretariat of Assistance and Social Development of São Paulo inaugurated, on an emergency basis, the **Ebenezer Specialized Shelter Center (CAE Ebenezer)**, located in a hotel in the Penha neighborhood adapted for the temporary shelter of Afghan families. CAE Ebenezer was activated to accommodate over 100 Afghan people who had recently arrived in Brazil and were camped at Guarulhos International Airport in need of social assistance support. CAE Ebenezer has the direct support of UNHCR and Caritas Arquidiocesana de São Paulo.

### Temporary shelter network in the state of São Paulo

BETWEEN JANUARY AND NOVEMBER 2022

**180** Afghans sheltered at Casa de Passagem Terra Nova

SINCE JULY 2022

**79** Afghans sheltered at the Repúblicas

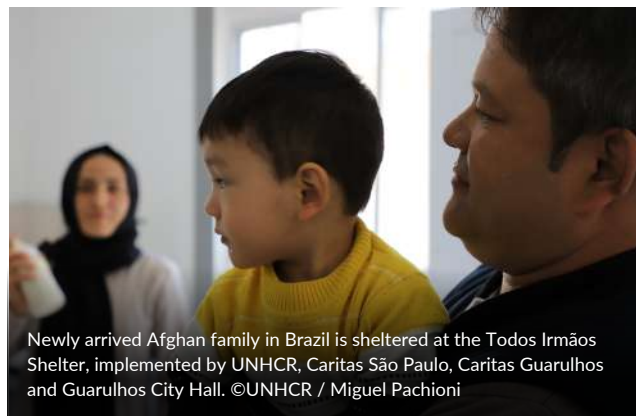
Source: Regional Director of Social Assistance and Development, CAS/Secretariat of Social Development

### Missão Paz

BETWEEN AUGUST 2021 AND SEPTEMBER 2022

**300** Afghans sheltered

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

**143** 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.

### Poá Reception and Integration Center

SINCE SEPTEMBER 2022

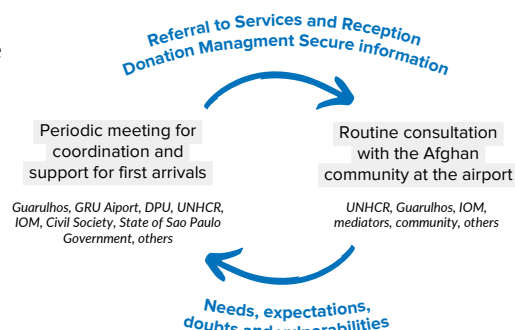
**76** Afghans sheltered

Source: SOS Aldeias Infantis

On 23 September 2022, UNHCR, in partnership with SOS Children's Villages, opened a new **Reception and Integration Center** in Poá-SP to complement the efforts of the local network in providing shelter and other protection support to Afghans. The Center currently hosts 13 Afghan families, a total of 53 people. In addition to the shelter, families are being assisted to access documentation and learn Portuguese, and with referrals to formal education services, employment, and other local integration opportunities.

## Operational Coordination

A new model of operational coordination was introduced by the Municipality of Guarulhos for the response at the airport. Under the new model, UNHCR's Protection team will temporarily ensure a constant presence at the airport to strengthen communication and consultation activities with the community and referral pathways to shelter assistance and other services. In addition, weekly alignment meetings with partners will be conducted to improve the reception of new arrivals.



## LOCAL INTEGRATION

### Outreach Volunteers

In October, UNHCR and CASP conducted a training for **70 Afghan outreach volunteers from different states of Brazil** to strengthen community mobilization and mutual protection support within the community, through the dissemination of reliable information on access to rights and prevention of violations. **In addition to this, participants are also working in the PAAHM, in the state shelters and in the Todos Irmãos Temporary Shelter.**



Newly-arrived Afghans are trained as outreach volunteers. ©UNHCR/Miguel Pachioni

### 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 Afghan refugees who have just arrived in the country. The course has been offered with the support from UNHCR, CASP, and Aldeias Infantis SOS Brasil at the Ipiranga Shelter, CAE Ebenezer, Repúblicas, and at the Poá Reception and Integration Center. **As of November 2022, 185 Afghans have attended the classes**, as an important part of their integration process and path to self-reliance.



Afghan family in Brazil during a community breakfast. ©UNHCR / Vanessa Beltrame

### 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](http://acnur.org.br/afeganistao).



Help

[help.unhcr.org/brazil/en/information-for-the-afghan-population](http://help.unhcr.org/brazil/en/information-for-the-afghan-population)



[acnur.org.br/afeganistao](http://acnur.org.br/afeganistao)

### 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)