

# UNHCR Brazil - Livelihoods

REPORT October – November – December 2020



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UNHCR Livelihoods Unit in Brazil is promoting several initiatives with the aim to mitigate the socioeconomic impacts on the refugee population and persons of concern. Our actions are implemented directly or through a network of implementing partners spread throughout the country, as well as through partnerships with Federal, State and Municipal Governments, with civil society organizations, other UN agencies, with organizations working in development programs and with private companies. Understood as a driver for local integration, the Interiorization strategy led by the Federal Government, entails the voluntary relocation of Venezuelans from Roraima to other states in Brazil with better employment prospects.

This is the second edition of the Livelihoods Unit Report. *Enjoy your reading!*

## Employment

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### COMPANIES WITH REFUGEES (EMPRESAS COM REFUGIADOS) PLATFORM

UNHCR, the Global Compact and the Tent Partnership for Refugees are hosted joint webinars with the objective to engage the private sector in contributing to the refugee' integration. During this period, two webinars were promoted highlighting corporate good practices [here](#). Around 100 people participated. BRK Ambiental and Foxtime Human Resources shared their project that offers technical professional training in maintenance of hydro-sanitary installations for refugee women. Information on this good practice was included in the [Empresas com Refugiados](#) platform and can be accessed [here](#). The Companies with Refugees Platform, joint initiative of UNHCR and UN Global Compact, promotes good business practices in the inclusion of refugees. See more [here](#).

#### Promoting employment for refugees and migrants in Boa Vista

To support the inclusion of refugees and migrants in the local job market, SJMR supported 371 persons with CV preparation, in parallel with support to access the digital work permit. 236 Venezuelans were referred to job interviews by the organization in the last three months of 2020 and 90 persons were hired to work in companies in different parts of Brazil.

#### Private Sector engagement in Roraima

On November 24, UNHCR and SJMR gave a presentation for members of 8 different local companies, during the event “Breakfast with Employers” held by FECOMÉRCIO and SENAC in Boa Vista, with a session on labour insertion for refugees and migrants, and one on how local suppliers can do business with UNHCR. The main goal of the event was to strengthen UNHCR's relationship with the local private sector.

#### Referrals to job vacancies in Manaus by Hermanitos

Despite the severe impact on the local labour market caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, 60 Venezuelans were referred for job placement by Hermanitos between October and December. The vacancies offered were in the areas of technology, agriculture, general services, commerce, administration and customer service.

## Indigenous families supported within the shelter-exit strategy

UNHCR, SEMASC and Cáritas Manaus supported 12 indigenous families through a shelter-exit strategy. In order to guarantee dignified conditions and access to basic needs for the families in their new homes, the 72 indigenous people included in the project were supported by UNHCR with the donation of several items, including kitchen sets. The families will continue to be supported over a three-month period through housing assistance provided by Caritas and will be included in the Passport for Social Inclusion project of SEMASC in the fourth month of project, through which they will be supported for a period of one year. Currently, 17 families are part of the initiative in Manaus.

## Corte Solidário promotes haircut and dialogues about gender-based violence in Manaus

In October, UNHCR and Instituto Mana launched the project *Corte Solidário*, focused on peaceful coexistence for the LGBTI refugee community in Manaus. The initiative came from the LGBTI refugee groups living in self-managed houses in different neighborhoods. The project includes a mobile barbershop that visits shelters, collective houses and reception spaces seeking to foster peaceful coexistence through free haircut, transmitting key protection messages and strengthening the self-esteem of those assisted. 5 editions of the activity were held benefiting refugees in shelters in Manaus. [See more here.](#)

## Proteja o Trabalho (Protect Work) Campaign

UNHCR, ILO, IOM and the Sub-secretariat for Labor Inspection (Ministry of Economy - Special Secretariat for Social Security and Labor) jointly promoted the campaign *Proteja o Trabalho* (Protect Work) whose objective is to provide information to Brazilian workers, migrants and refugees, as well as employers, on the measures adopted by the federal government to confront Covid-19. Three new booklets were released and are available to download in the website of the campaign in Portuguese, English, French, Spanish, and Arabic. The materials are available at the [campaign's website.](#)

## Webinar on diversity and inclusion

On December 16, UNHCR participated in a webinar organized by the Manpower group in Brazil about diversity and inclusion in the private sector. The audience was composed by human resources managers and professionals from areas of diversity in the private sector companies.

## Start of Warao handicraft production project with Museu A Casa do Objeto Brasileiro

In November, Museu a Casa do Objeto Brasileiro in partnership with UNHCR began the implementation of a project to support indigenous Venezuelans' livelihoods through strengthening the traditional Warao handicrafts' value chain. In December, 25 indigenous Warao women living in Tarumã Açú 1 and 2 shelters in Manaus benefitted from distribution of buriti fiber by the SJMR with the support of UNHCR and Museu A Casa. The project will continue its development throughout 2021, providing technical guidance on best practices for handicraft production and sale, promoting indigenous Venezuelan refugees' income generation and self-reliance.

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## INCLUDING WARAO FISHERMEN

On the December 9th UNHCR delivered 2 boats to a group of Warao fishermen living in the municipality of Ananindeua in Para State. In addition to the boats, UNHCR provided lifejackets and fishing tools to support their initial activities. This intervention will help them to strengthen the nutrition of the community and can be developed into an income generating activities once they get familiar with the river and increase their fishing capacity. A total of 100 indigenous persons will be benefitted, out of which 50% are children and adolescents. See webstory [here.](#)

## Fostering people with disabilities' integration

On November 18th, UNHCR held a workshop on the inclusion of people with disabilities (PwD) in the labour market. This first-of-its-kind training focused on employment and inclusion of PwD in the Brazilian labour market, had over 40 participants from 15 different organizations engaged in Operação Acolhida in Boa Vista. The training was conducted by the specialized consultancy from São Paulo, Turma do Jiló, a partner of the project "Empowering Refugee Women".



## Entrepreneurship

### Supporting entrepreneurs in Boa Vista

During December, 20 Entrepreneurs and their families (62 persons total) were supported with cash assistance in a partnership between UNHCR and ADRA. The group was selected based on the business projects presented at the end of an entrepreneurship course offered by ADRA. Participants are also being supported with Portuguese classes and other courses

relevant to their businesses and ADRA will be acting as an incubator for the selected projects for a period of 6 to 12 months, mentoring each of the participants. The goal of the cash assistance was to support entrepreneurs during the first months of launching their businesses, allowing for their family's basic needs to be covered while they may reinvest their revenue and time in expanding their small business.

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## SUPPORT TO VENEZUELAN ENTREPRENEURS WITH STARTER KITS

Through a partnership between UNHCR and SJMR, 24 Venezuelan entrepreneurs in Boa Vista received Starter Kits to support their business, that are in-kind donations of materials, tools, and equipment needed for each small enterprise. SJMR also promoted a series of workshops on the theme of entrepreneurship, on topics such as Basic regulations and Formalization options for Small Business, attended by not only the Starter Kits recipients, but also other Venezuelan entrepreneurs.

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In Manaus, 92 Venezuelan refugees were benefited with these kits. 47 of the beneficiaries are indigenous. The delivery happened following cycles of business preparation and management workshops, which were carried out in partnership with SEBRAE, with Agência Besouro and by the SJMR team between October and December. Business plans were developed with the participants and, after the kits were delivered, they were then accompanied by the SJMR for the first 3 months of the implementation of their projects.

## Fostering refugee entrepreneurship

UNHCR participated in the webinar “Coffee with UNHCR: entrepreneurship as a solution for refugees and migrants” on November 6th, whose objective was to promote entrepreneurs initiatives with the findings from the [Entrepreneurs Profile research](#). The webinar was organized by Aliança Empreendedora and the recording of the video is available [here](#).



## Financial Inclusion

### Updated guidance on refugees' financial inclusion

On November 26th, the Central Bank launched the third edition of the [Financial Information Booklet for Migrants and Refugees](#) in partnership with UNHCR, IOM and CONARE. This edition of the booklet includes information on regulations dealing with the opening, maintenance and closure of accounts and information on means of payment, including the new modality Pix.

### Novo Caminhar Project

UNHCR and SJMR, in partnership with AVSI, promoted a pilot project to support 29 families to exit the shelters in a safe and supported manner in Boa Vista. Thus, allowing families to be locally integrated and achieve self-reliance. The families were provided with classes on financial planning and household budget management, information about peaceful coexistence, access to public services, and the social protection network, as well as cash assistance for 3 months. Participants will be monitored by SJMR for the entire period of the assistance to ensure a safe transition.

### PROVIDING MICROCREDIT TO REFUGEE ENTREPRENEURS

- ★ On October 1st, UNHCR signed a MOU with Banco do Povo Crédito Solidário, a microcredit institution based in Sao Paulo. The agreement aims to promote the access of refugees and migrants to financial inclusion, especially microcredit loans for entrepreneurs. In May 2020, the organization launched a pilot microcredit programme for refugees and migrants sponsored by Kiva Platform that has already benefitted 47 entrepreneurs, most of them nationals from Venezuela.
- ★ A pilot project entitled “Creditodos” with Banco Pérola was launched on December 22nd, in Brasília. UNHCR partnered with Banco Pérola with the aim to facilitate the access of refugees to microcredit loans. Two online meetings, organized by IMDH, took place to inform refugee entrepreneurs from Brasília about Creditodos. The pilot project should be extended to Manaus and other cities in 2021.



## Education

### Livelihoods training for partners

In November, UNHCR conducted a Livelihoods training for over 30 people from partner organizations in Boa Vista. The full-day training covered the main principles and guidelines for livelihoods activities, presented the latest data and reports developed by UNHCR Brazil on the topic, and promoted a solutions-building practical session for encouraging partners to plan the next steps towards their livelihoods strategies for 2021.

### Latin America Memorial Teacher Training

On November 7th, UNHCR participated in the opening of workshops for public and private network teachers, held by Memorial da América Latina, within the framework of its partnership with UNESCO and supported by UNHCR. These workshops will deal with forms of support and teaching methodologies to refugees and applicants in schools.

## VOCATIONAL TRAININGS TO REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

### Manaus

- ★ NGO Hermanitos and Senac promoted vocational training to Venezuelan refugees in downtown Manaus. Courses provided include Eyebrow Design, Creativity and Innovation in Sales and Pizza Manufacturing, among others. In addition, Portuguese classes were offered and an English course, taught by a Venezuelan volunteer, was offered for children and adolescents. A total of 233 were benefited.
- ★ A total of 200 slots for professional qualification courses were offered to refugees by CETAM in Manaus. The slots were offered for trainings in Cashier, Warehousing, Gatekeeper, Sales Assistant, Goods Repository and Basic Portuguese. Cáritas Arquidiocesana de Manaus referred Venezuelan refugees attended by their services for the courses according to their preferences, professional experiences and career plans.
- ★ In the last quarter of 2020, eight professional qualification courses provided by CETAM (Centro de Educação Tecnológica do Amazonas) were offered in Manaus at ADRA's CARE, benefiting 129 Venezuelans thanks to the partnership with UNHCR. The courses taken were on Basic and Advanced Portuguese, Warehousing, Gatekeeper, Administrative Assistant and Receptionist. In addition, specific classes for indigenous Warao refugees were offered on Air Conditioning Installation and Maintenance and in Basic Portuguese. Another 57 Venezuelan refugees were benefited by trainings on Truffle Confectionery, Bakery and on Cookies and Crackers, provided voluntarily by businesses specialized in these fields in partnership with ADRA.



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- ★ In December 2020, ADRA, in partnership with UNHCR and MPT, inaugurated the community kitchen project in Manaus. This project aims to promote courses in gastronomy for the refugee population. Also in December, courses on cooking were held, which contributed to the income generation of these families.

### Boa Vista

- ★ In October and November, SJMR in partnership with UNHCR promoted two vocational training in areas of Sales and Baking. A total of 44 persons were benefited.
- ★ In partnership with the Federal University of Roraima's Insikiran department, 33 persons participated in an indigenous leadership course, that included topics such as national and international indigenous rights and refugee law.
- ★ In November and December, FFHI in partnership with UNHCR, promoted multiple trainings to the Venezuelan indigenous population sheltered in Boa Vista, in areas of sewing, hairdressing, baking, and computing. In total, 58 persons were benefited, including persons with disabilities. Another 19 indigenous refugees and migrants graduated from professional training in firefighting, which included skills such as first aid, fire prevention, private security, and emergency response.

### UNHCR strengthens public and civil society's services with donations

UNHCR formalized the donation of furniture and IT equipment, including computers, printers, and electric appliances, among others, to social assistance reference centers and shelters located in regions with a larger presence of refugees and migrants - Rio de Janeiro (RS), Sao Paulo (SP), Campinas (SP), Cachoeirinha (RS), Porto Alegre (RS), Viamao (RS), Caxias do Sul (RS). The donation is part of a project to foster and promote the development of and strengthen specialized local policies for the protection and integration of refugees and migrants.

### Training of public teachers in São Paulo

In October and November, UNHCR participated in the project "Human Refugees", promoted by the Commercial Social Service Institute (SESC) São Paulo in partnership with the Regional Board of Education and Municipal Secretary of Education. The project aims to raise awareness amongst public school teachers on refugee issues and to discuss and promote local initiatives for better integration of refugee children in the school environment. The west and east regions of Sao Paulo city were covered, reaching more than 284 teachers through webinars with the participation of refugees.

### Facilitating diploma revalidation

In October, UNHCR supported six women from Boa Vista with cash assistance while they pursued the revalidation of their university diplomas, in order to work as medical doctors in Brazil. The support was given in partnership with UN Women and aimed to cover their family's basic needs given the costs related to the *Revalida* test.



## Peaceful Coexistence

### Cities With Refugees Campaign highlighted Sao Paulo on the International Cities Day

On October 31st, the municipality of São Paulo marked International Cities Day (celebrated on September 31st), highlighting their partnership with UNHCR Brazil. Please use the following links for additional information:

- [How the city of Sao Paulo is placing refugee perspectives at the heart of its policy](#) (*Global Compact on Refugees*)
- [En Brasil, la ciudad de São Paulo pone a las personas refugiadas en el centro de sus políticas](#) (*ACNUR Americas*)
- [4 cities that embrace refugees— yours should, too](#) (*Medium.com*)
- [4 ciudades que le dan la bienvenida a los refugiados... y muestran por qué la tuya también debería hacerlo](#) (*ACNUR Americas*)

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## Interiorization

DECEMBER 2020



**1,356** Venezuelan refugees and migrants were relocated in December 2020.



**46,589** were relocated since April 2018

### Trainings and actions to support the Interiorization

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#### Companies with Refugees Platform [empresascomrefugiados.com.br](https://empresascomrefugiados.com.br)

**11** companies offered 20 job opportunities through the Companies with Refugees Platform in December. Since July, there is a direct link on the Companies with Refugees Platform website with the Força-Tarefa Logística Humanitária (FT Log Hum) team for companies to offer job vacancies.

#### Trainings to promote relocation

**435** refugees and migrants in Roraima participated in workshops and professional courses, Portuguese lessons, curriculum development and referrals for interviews in December, totaling **3,765** beneficiaries since January 2019.

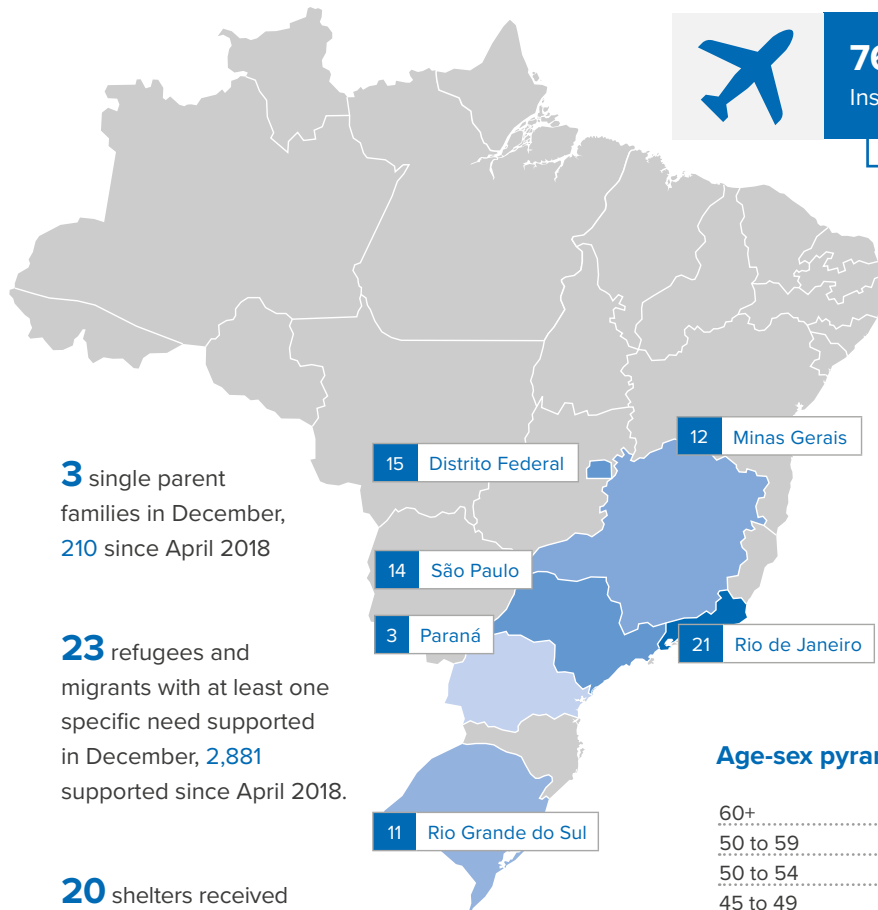
#### SUPPORTING REFUGEE TRUCK DRIVERS

UNHCR supported **26** truck drivers with cash assistance, in partnership with *Força Tarefa*, to revalidate their driver's license in Brazil. Beneficiaries will be referred by *Força Tarefa* to job interviews, with the goal of being relocated via the Employment-based modality.

## Figures Institutional Interiorization Modality

The institutional modality implies the relocation of refugees and migrants from Boa Vista shelters to transitional welcome centers in cities with greater socioeconomic potential. Beneficiaries are welcomed for up to 3 months, meanwhile they access services that aim at the rapid transition, such as professional counseling, CV elaboration, referrals to job and entrepreneurship opportunities,

accessing to public services, support in the preparation for exiting the Center with identification of houses for rent and other assistance and enabling contacts with the Venezuelan community in the territory. The shelters have also stood out for receiving and enabling an autonomous integration of people with specific vulnerabilities, as elderly, single parents, LGBTI + community, people with health problems, people with disabilities, among other vulnerable profiles.



**3** single parent families in December, **210** since April 2018

**23** refugees and migrants with at least one specific need supported in December, **2,881** supported since April 2018.

**20** shelters received support from UNHCR in 2020 to provide shelter and integration services for beneficiaries of the Interiorization strategy, more than **50** shelters have been already supported since 2018.



For more information, see the interactive panel at:

[bit.ly/3c1QY1](https://bit.ly/3c1QY1)



**76** refugees and migrants have benefited from the Institutional interiorization modality in December.

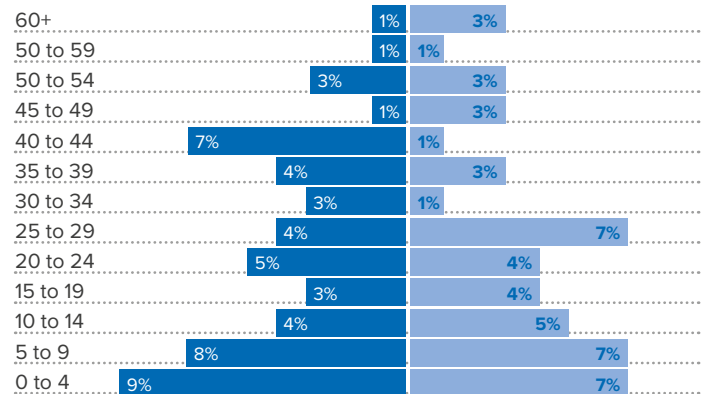
**10,949** since April 2018

### Education Figures

Uneducated	17
2nd Grade	3
3rd Grade	3
5th Grade	3
7th Grade	5
8th Grade	4
9th Grade	4
10th Grade	5
11th Grade	1
12th Grade	11
Vocational Education	3
Undergraduate School	3
With no information	14

### Age-sex pyramid

Female  Male



## Support in the transit process in Manaus

**381** refugees and migrants were supported at Alojamento de Trânsito de Manaus (ATM) in december 2020, **9,896** since July 2019.

UNHCR donated in support of interiorization in Manaus:

**7,560** bars of soap **200** backpacks **1,000** bags



## Support in the pre-departure process in Roraima

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**144** refugees and migrants sheltered at Rondon-2 for pre-departure in Boa Vista, **9,121** since September 2018.

**49** refugees and migrants sheltered at BV-8 for pre-boarding in Pacaraima, **2,886** since September 2018.

**52** refugees and migrants participated in information sessions on Interiorization conducted by UNHCR.

## Departure from shelters and employability

**157** refugees and migrants exited from the shelters of Aldeais Infantis (UNHCR implementing partner) in Brasília (DF), Juiz de Fora (MG), Rio de Janeiro (RJ), São Paulo (SP), and Porto Alegre (POA). Through the referral of employment provided by the organization with the local network, **124 (78%)** refugees and migrants left the shelter with employment or were benefited by the employment of the focal point from October to December.

- **52** exited in October, **44** benefited from employment.
- **40** exited in November, **38** benefited from employment.
- **63** exited in December, **42** benefited from employment.

## Financial assistance (CBI) to enable the Interiorization

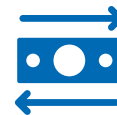
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**1,130** refugees and migrants benefited from CBI in December.

→ **3,263** refugees and migrants were supported with CBI since July 2019.

- **1,867** relocated through the Employment-based modality
- **1,396** through the Institutional modality.



**778** refugees and migrants participating in the Interiorization program through Employment-based modality were supported with CBI to cover their basic needs, such as housing, food and hygiene items, during the first month of their relocation.

**352** refugees and migrants participating in the Interiorization program through Institutional modality were supported with CBI in order to facilitate exit from the temporary shelters.

**R\$7,4 million** invested in the CBI strategy since 2019, **R\$ 2,7 million** invested in the Interiorization strategy.



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### UNHCR's private sector donors:



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.