



UNHCR
ACNUR
Agência da ONU para Refugiados

January 2022
NEWSLETTER

acnur.org

UNHCR received with great dismay the news of the brutal murder of Moïse Kabagambe, a 24-year-old Congolese refugee, in Rio de Janeiro.

Moïse arrived in Brazil in 2011, aged 14, when together with his brothers fled the conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Since then, UNHCR and PARES Caritas RJ had supported Moïse and his family, who were recognized as refugees by the Brazilian Government, in reestablishing themselves in Brazil. In this speechless moment, UNHCR and PARES continue providing the family the necessary assistance, while also following the case with authorities confident that the circumstances and motivations of this crime will be clarified, and perpetrators brought to justice according to Brazilian law.

Every day, thousands of people have no other option than leave their country of origin in order to find protection and safety somewhere else, for reasons which include racism and xenophobia. They face enormous challenges throughout their journeys – passing through illegal routes, facing risks such as human trafficking, sexual and gender-based violence, extortion.

When arriving in the host country, these challenges may vary, but are still present – re-establishing a home and identity, while trying to juggle the tasks of daily living facing language barriers, mental health, insertion in the labor market and education, access to services. Refugees might take nothing with themselves but hope of living a dignified life, with opportunities and integration.

Brazil is currently home to more than 60,000 refugees from 70 different nationalities. Over the past years, the country has welcomed hundreds of thousands of asylum-seekers, the majority being Venezuelans. Brazilian legislation guarantees to asylum seekers and refugees the same civil rights as nationals, which enables a smoother local integration. Actions implemented in coordination by UNHCR and other UN agencies, government, and civil society support refugees and migrants in finding protection and longer-term solutions in the country.

UNHCR is liaising with governmental authorities and civil society partners to assess social cohesion initiatives in communities hosting refugees, asylum-seekers and

migrants, also to strengthen local integration and self-reliance regular interventions. UNHCR is supporting the recent creation of the “Observatory against Violence” by the National Committee for Refugees (CONARE), which will not only monitor Moïse’s case but also articulate actions to prevent and react to situations of violence against refugees and other forcibly displaced people in Brazil.

To all our readers, please join us in expressing our deepest condolences to the family of Moïse Kabagambe over his tragic death.

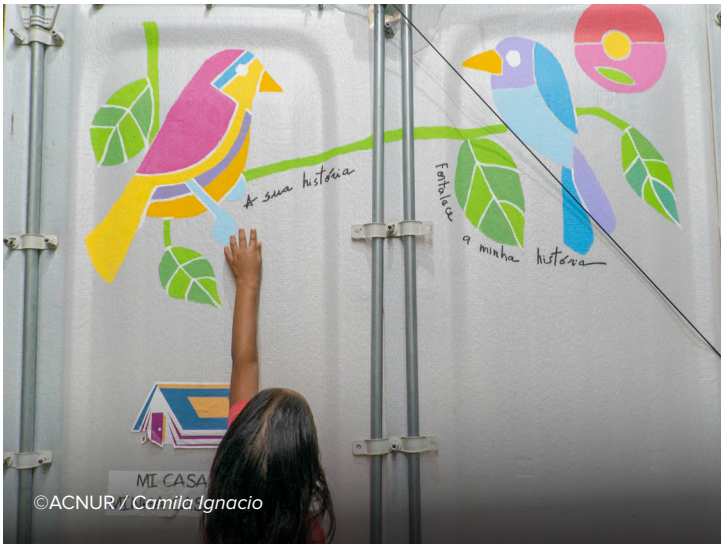
Read UNHCR, PARES Caritas RJ and IOM joint letter at <https://bit.ly/3rw4FOA>

Read more about the “Observatory against Violence” at <https://bit.ly/3uxWzqd>

**Cáritas Rio, ACNUR e OIM
lamentam morte de
refugiado congolês.**



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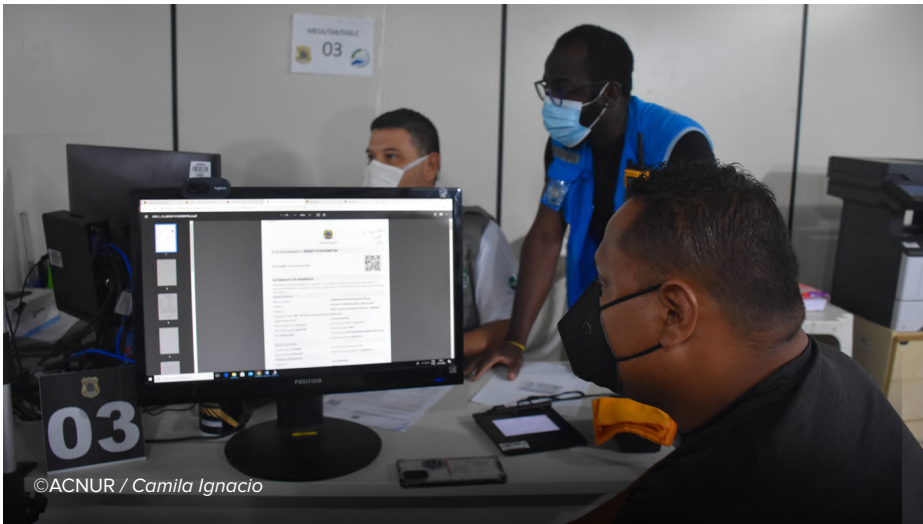
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More community libraries opened in Boa Vista's shelters

To open a book is to open a door to a new life. Building on the success of the community libraries installed in the Operation Welcome's shelters in 2021, the "Mi Casa, Tu Casa" project – an initiative by the newspaper Joca, in partnership with UNHCR and Hands On Human Rights – has been recently expanded in Boa Vista.

Two new libraries for children and adolescents were opened in Pricumã shelter and Espaço Emergencial 13 de Setembro, managed by UNHCR's partner Fraternity Without Borders (FSF). Children and adolescents will have a reading area and will also be able to borrow books and read them in the shelters. Adults themselves can also benefit from the libraries, as they bring together children's, youth and adult literature.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/3IP0jaL> and <https://bit.ly/3HCkbgY>



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UNHCR and Federal Police join efforts to document Venezuelans

"Fronteira Digital" provides capacity building for refugees in Boa Vista

Documentation is the first step for refugees and migrants to access their rights. Since the easing of regularization procedures at the border between Brazil and Venezuela, determined in June 2021, thousands of Venezuelans began to seek services at the Reception and Document Centre (PITRIG) to regularize their situation in the country, generating a demand that was above the technical capacity of national authorities. Through joint efforts to speed up documentation procedures, the Federal Police in Roraima have been working in the night shift at the Police Station in front of PRI Pacaraima until 8 pm and with the support of UNHCR at the PITRIG Boa Vista from 6 pm to 11 pm. With this task force, the documentation waiting time has decreased to 2 to 3 weeks, compared to 2 to 3 months by the end of 2021. A similar action is in place in São Paulo, where UNHCR and partners supported the initiative of the Federal Police to issue and renew documents for refugees and migrants in vulnerable conditions, supporting an average of 100 people weekly. These actions ensure refugees and migrants feel safer and better able to access services that facilitate self-sufficiency, but also allow for better migratory control by the federal government.

In Boa Vista, a technical capacity-building initiative aims to expand by at least 60% employment opportunities for refugees and migrants located in shelters. "Fronteira Digital" is the result of a partnership with Microsoft Brazil, UNHCR and AVSI, and part of an International Finance Corporation (IFC) initiative funded by the Japanese government. The project aims at involving private sector companies in developing solutions for the refugee population in Brazil as well as promoting values such as diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunity. The pilot will last four months and offer customized training for 30 people through Microsoft 365 and Power Platform courses, increasing their digital skills. The project also entails setting up a computer lab needed to carry out the courses as well as raising awareness among companies participating in the Companies with Refugees Forum for potential hiring of refugee professionals. Companies that have not yet participated in the Forum can also volunteer for the program.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/3ILPh5V>

Read more at <https://bit.ly/3r29E98>



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Non-food items (NFI) positive impact on host communities, refugees and migrants' lives

When people are forced to flee, they often have nothing but their clothes, not knowing when or where they will have access to items such as tampons, baby and adult diapers, blankets, and other goods. The regular provision of NFIs during emergencies is of utmost importance to those in most vulnerable situation. In the last weeks of 2021, different parts of Brazil have suffered from heavy rains resulting in broken roads, destroyed crops and houses. In Normandia, Roraima, thanks to the generous contributions from the US Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), UNHCR delivered solar lamps, polyethylene sheets and diapers to assist more than 4,000 indigenous and non-indigenous people, with the support of the municipal government. In Boa Vista, mattresses and hygiene kits were donated to the Roraima's Indigenous Migrants Association (AMIR), an organization which promotes music teaching and learning for Venezuelan Pemón children. In addition, UNHCR distributed hygiene items to the indigenous shelter managed by the Municipal Secretary of Social Development of Palmas, in the state of Tocantins.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/3r3CMgf>

HIGHLIGHTS

UNHCR and Ministry of Citizenship renew their partnership:

To continue promoting humanitarian reception and internal relocation opportunities for refugees and migrants and guarantee their access to social assistance rights in Brazil, UNHCR and the Ministry of Citizenship renewed their partnership in action since 2018 through their Technical Cooperation Agreement which remains valid until December 2023.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/3AC9f06>

UNHCR meets Para State Prosecutors:

AUNHCR and 13 Pará State prosecutors met in January to discuss their role when responding to arrivals of indigenous refugees and migrants to Pará. UNHCR will provide a technical training customized for the prosecutors with relevant information when working with refugee and migrant indigenous populations. Moreover, the State Prosecutor's Office will also reactivate a multifunctional commission dedicated to asylum matters.

Dreamballs are distributed to refugee children and adolescent in shelters:

A total of 185 dreamballs, designed by five winning-contest young refugee and migrants' artists, were distributed to children and adolescents to remember the power of sport and to stimulate sport and integration activities among communities. One of the winner designs is from Skarly de Jesus, a 12-year-old Venezuelan refugee in Brazil.

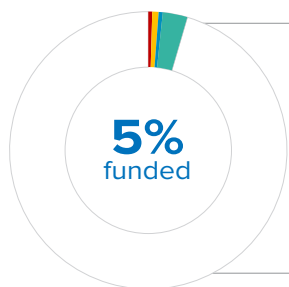


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Roraima continues its preparation for the new shelter "Waraotuma a Tuaranoko": UNHCR and R4V partners have stepped up their efforts towards the restructuring of Rondon 3 shelter to receive Venezuelan indigenous refugees and migrants. During January, among different activities, 72 double Refugee Housing Units (RHU), with capacity for 10 individuals, were assembled and remodeled to receive hammocks and the design of the traditional kitchen structure was approved by the indigenous community, whose voice and contributions are included throughout the whole process. Moreover, different sectors of the R4V are working in close coordination with local authorities to ensure a smooth transition for the indigenous population and continued access to services when moving to the new space. The shelter will be re-named to "Waraotuma a Tuaranoko" which means "resting place" in Warao.

PUBLICATIONS

- ▶ São Paulo Bimonthly Activities Report (November – December) [PT](#), [EN](#)
- ▶ Roraima Bimonthly Activities Report (November – December) [PT](#), [EN](#)



UNHCR Brazil Funding update
AS OF 8 FEBRUARY DE 2022

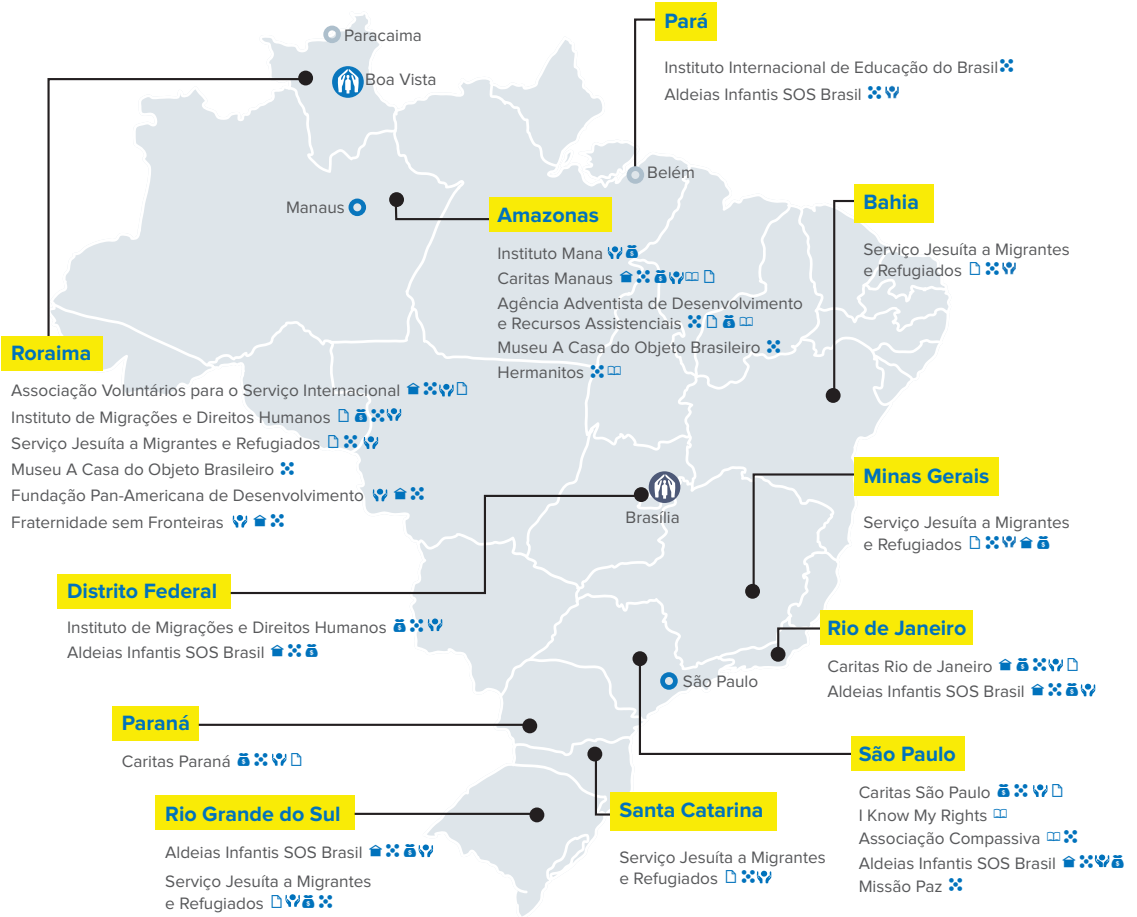
US\$ 52,5 million
UNHCR's financial requirements in 2021

- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

For more information: reporting.unhcr.org

Brazil Operation: UNHCR and Partners

- UNHCR Country Office
- UNHCR Sub Office
- UNHCR Field Office
- UNHCR Field Unit
- Protection
- Reception Sites
- Documentation
- Information Management
- Cash Assistance
- Integration
- Education
- Telecommunications



Companies with Refugees Platform

empresascomrefugiados.com.br



HELP - The UNHCR source of information for refugees

help.unhcr.org/brazil

RESPOSTA A VENEZUELANOS

Plataforma de Coordenação para Refugiados e Migrantes da Venezuela

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UNHCR's partners in Brazil:



UNHCR Brazil is thankful for the support of private donors and:



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.