

UNHCR IN BELÉM



Indígenas Warao assistem aula do curso de interpretação. @Gabriel Tardelli, ACNUR

★ Highlighted Actions

COURSE IN INTERPRETATION FOR INDIGENOUS WARAO PEOPLE

In March, UNHCR started the training course for 9 Warao interpreters, a pilot project developed and executed in partnership with the University of Brasília (UnB) and the Federal University of Paraíba (UFPB). The initiative seeks to train members of the Warao community in community interpretation techniques as well as in linguistic and cultural mediation to provide support to social workers while providing services to indigenous Warao people who do not speak Portuguese.

Such support will be offered through a mobile app that is being developed by UnB, with contributions from UNHCR and the assistance network of the municipalities of Belém and Ananindeua, scheduled for release in August of this year. This project places the Pará social assistance network at the forefront of social inclusion processes for refugees and migrants.

Pará approves Law establishing state policy for migrants, refugees and stateless people

On 21 June, in the context of the celebrations for the World Refugee Day, the Legislative Assembly of Pará (ALEPA) unanimously approved the Bill that establishes the state policy for migrants, refugees and stateless people and provides for its objectives, principles, guidelines and priority actions. UNHCR provided technical assistance for the discussion of the bill during the public hearing and, in partnership with the IEB, promoted a meeting to discuss the project with indigenous Warao people who had their comments inserted into the final text approved by ALEPA. On 12 July, the law was sanctioned by the Government of the state of Pará.



DPE se reúne com comunidade Warao de Outeiro Itaitéua. @Gabriel Tardelli, ACNUR

DPE's performance to promote safe housing for indigenous refugees receives award from Pará School of Public Defenders

The Housing Center of the Public Defender's Office of Pará began to act in defense of housing and land regularization with the Venezuelan refugee communities of the Warao ethnic group in the District of Outeiro, in Belém. In April, the Public Defender's Office of the State of Pará (DPE-PA) instructed a request for Urban Land Regularization of Social Interest (Reurb) to the Municipality of Belém with the intention of seeking titles for the property purchased by a group of refugee families in the region, thus promoting effective access to the right to safe, dignified and culturally sensitive housing. This was made possible by UNHCR, which mediated contact between the DPE and the community and accompanied the entity on field visits. In May, the Center was awarded first place for its work in the contest held by the Pará School of Public Defenders as the best institutional initiative.

Projeto Povo das Águas (PEOPLE OF THE WATERS PROJECT)

In January 2022, the International Institute of Education of Brazil (IEB), in partnership with UNHCR, began the second phase of the People of the Waters project – work, participation and livelihoods, with indigenous Warao residents of the municipalities of Belém and Ananindeua, in Pará.

An important product produced within the scope of the project between UNHCR and IEB is the “Warao Perceptions about Work” assessment. The document, which was released on World Refugee Day and can be found [here](#), outlines the work profile of the Warao respondents and describes their views on work.

During the first half of the implementation, actions aimed at the productive insertion of Warao people were carried out, such as:

 **70**

Warao artisans are supported in different quantities to register and issue the National Register of Artisans, structure the craft chain and accompany them to local fairs;

 **40**

resumes sent to various job openings;

 **MORE THAN 40**

resumes stored in a curriculum database;

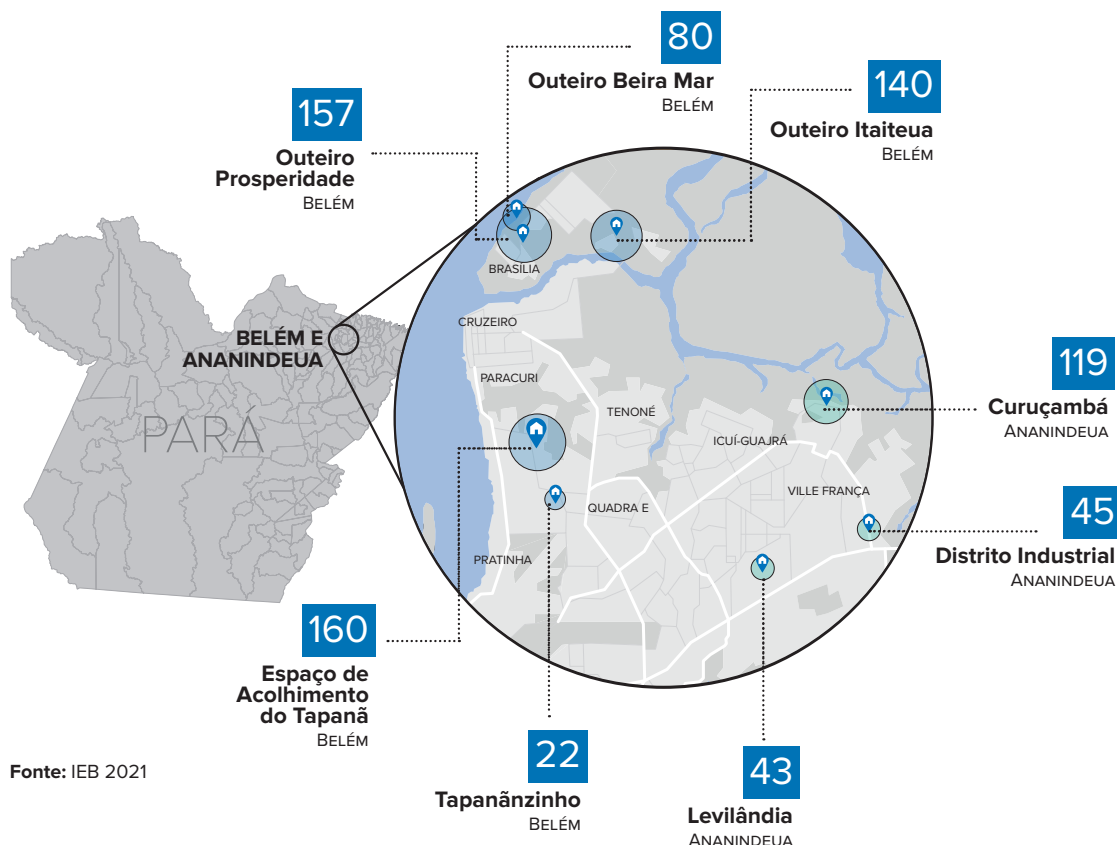
 **16**

Warao assisted in the job selection and hiring processes;

 **3**

indigenous people selected in job openings.

Socio-Spatial Distribution Of The Warao Population In Belém And Ananindeua



Fonte: IEB 2021

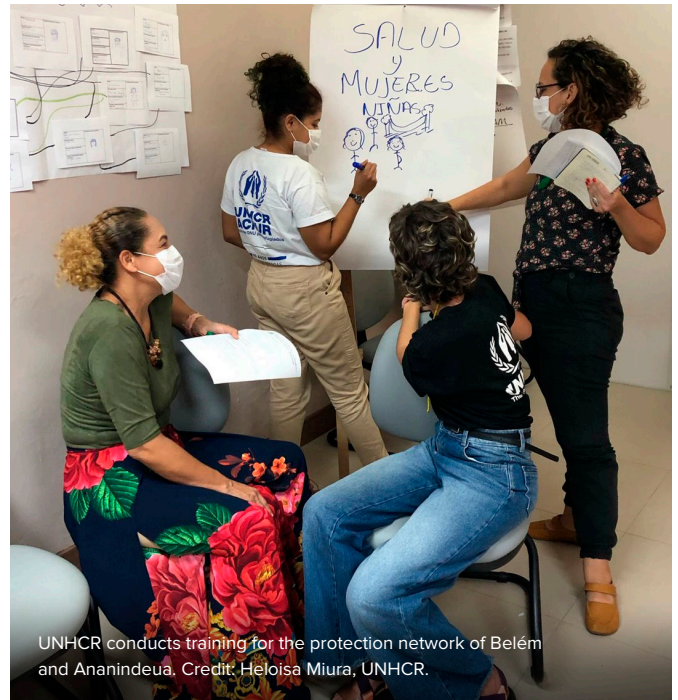
Protection

Creating multipliers to protect refugees

Reflecting its commitment to strengthen local skills and promote autonomy of the protective networks of Belém and Ananindeua through the transfer of technical knowledge, on 22, 23 and 24 February, UNHCR promoted a training course to create multipliers of themes related to protecting and assisting refugee people. The training included representatives from the State Secretariat for Justice and Human Rights (SEJUDH), the Pope John Paul XXIII Foundation (FUNPAPA), Cáritas, the International Institute of Education of Brazil (IEB), the Specialized Social Assistance Reference Center (CREAS) and Reference Centers for Social Assistance (CRAS) of Belém and Ananindeua.

Virtual interviews between indigenous Warao and CONARE

Between March and April 2022, the General Coordination of the National Committee for Refugees (CG-Conare), with support from UNHCR, conducted remote interviews with 8 indigenous Warao people who do not have a country of origin document in order to certify their nationality and thus allow them to be included in the simplified process of recognizing refugee status. This was the first time that indigenous Warao people participated in online interviews with CG-CONARE in yet another innovative UNHCR initiative in Belém. Considering that urban mobility is challenging and an obstacle for the Warao population that do not reside near downtown Belém, the interviews took place at the Reference Center for Social Assistance (CRAS) of the Outeiro neighborhood, where the interviewees live, which facilitated access and participation in the interviews. As a result of the virtual interviews, by June 2022, 7 have already been recognized as refugees by CONARE and will also be able to access the rights guaranteed to refugees recognized in Brazil, such as access to permanent residence and naturalization after 4 years, extension of the effects of refugee status and flexibility in the requirements for presenting documents from their country of origin.



UNHCR conducts training for the protection network of Belém and Ananindeua. Credit: Heloisa Miura, UNHCR.

2nd Module of the Indigenous Warao Leadership School

On 3 May, UNHCR, along with the International Institute of Education of Brazil (IEB), the Federal Public Defender's Office (DPU) and the Public Defender's Office of the State of Pará (DPE), began the second module of the Indigenous Warao Leadership School. During the classes, held at Centro Universitário do Pará (CESUPA), the Warao had the opportunity to learn a more about issues related to access to justice, land and housing. In total, 25 indigenous people participated, among men and women of different ages. The classes took place in May and June and, in addition to face-to-face meetings, the methodology involved Community Time activities, allowing students to perform actions in their own communities by putting into practice what was discussed in the classroom.



Warao men and women doing an activity during a workshop on Gender-Based Violence. Credits: Gabriel Tardelli, UNHCR.

Social and cultural knowledge exchange meeting on gender-based violence

On 27 April, UNHCR, in partnership with the International Institute of Education of Brazil (IEB), carried out an activity to prevent gender-based violence in the 8 Warao communities of Belém and Ananindeua. The objective of the activity was to promote conversations between Warao leaders about their understandings of the social and cultural roles that each member of the family plays (women, men, children, the elderly, Aidamos [leaders of the indigenous Warao], etc.). The methodology developed sought to encourage the Warao to reflect on their own mechanisms for identifying risks and preventing gender-based violence, as well as creating tools that can improve internal and family relationships.

Capacity Building

Training given to 15 municipalities in Pará on refugee protection and assistance

On 28 and 29 April, UNHCR and the State Secretariat for Justice and Human Rights (SEJUDH) held a training course in the auditorium of the Superintendency of the Federal Police of Pará to the protective networks of 15 municipalities in Pará. During the two days of the event, about 140 participants had the opportunity to meet and discuss issues related to legal frameworks, documentation, access to justice and assistance to access safe housing for the refugee population. The event had contributions from UNHCR partner entities such as the Immigration Federal Police Department (DELEMIG), the General Coordination of CONARE (CG-CONARE), State and Federal Public Defenders and State Prosecutor's Office (MPPA).



Second day of the event took place in the auditorium of the Federal Police (PF). Credits: Waldir Manaia, UNHCR.

Training for the security forces of Pará

On 4, 5 and 12 May, UNHCR, in partnership with the State Department of Public Security (SEGUP) and the Community Police and Human Rights Division of the Military Police, remotely trained 270 agents of the public security forces of Pará. Among the topics covered were UNHCR's mandate, the main regulatory frameworks on refugee issues and historical and anthropological aspects concerning the Warao people. The training, aimed at both agents who are on the front line in serving the refugee people in the state and delegates and managing officers of the Forces, focused on identifying joint measures that seek to promote safety and prevent situations of violence against refugees and migrants living in Pará, especially the indigenous Venezuelan Warao people.

Partnership with IBGE to conduct the 2022 Census



UNHCR supports the recording of IBGE's video for the Warao population about the 2022 Census. Credits: @Tamajara da Silva, UNHCR.

UNHCR has been working in partnership with the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) to support the institution in registering indigenous refugees and migrants living in Pará. On 18 and 24 May, UNHCR promoted face-to-face and virtual training for IBGE area coordinators in the State, having made important contributions to the adaptation of the methodology implemented by the Institute for data collection. The training presented historical and anthropological aspects about the displacement and presence of the Warao in Brazil, and promoted reflections about the possible challenges that may be faced by the census workers while conducting the CENSUS, which will take place between 1 August and 31 October.

In order to ensure culturally sensitive and efficient data collection among Warao, IBGE will hire interpreters trained under UNHCR's partnership with UNB to facilitate communication with communities. In addition, a video in Warao was produced by IBGE, UNHCR and the International Institute of Education of Brazil (IEB) to disseminate key information about the CENSUS.

Renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding with the State Secretariat for Justice and Human Rights (SEJUDH)

On 9 June, UNHCR and the State Secretariat for Justice and Human Rights (SEJUDH) renewed, for a two-year period, the cooperation agreement aimed at improving coordination and cooperation between the two institutions and supplementing the humanitarian response to refugees and migrants present in the state. The partnership aims to support SEJUDH’s actions in assisting refugees and migrants, as well as strengthening the creation of spaces for proposing policies for this group.



UNHCR Representative in Brazil, José Egas, followed by the Secretary of Justice and Human Rights of Pará, Valbetanio Milhomem, sign Memorandum of Understanding between UNHCR and SEJUDH Credits: @Janaína Galvão, UNHCR.

Livelihoods

Memorandum of Understanding signed with MPT and MPPA

On 8 May, the UNHCR representative in Brazil signed a memorandum of understanding with the Labor Prosecutor’s Office of Pará and Amapá (MPT-PA/AP) and the State Prosecutor’s Office (MPPA). The document confirms the cooperation between the institutions with the objective of sharing experiences and good practices in the areas of combating racism and xenophobia and productive and socioeconomic insertion of people in need of international protection that reside in the State of Pará. The document was also signed by the Chief Prosecutor of the MPT of Pará and Amapá and the Attorney General of the Justice Department of Pará.

Parceiros do ACNUR em Belém

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O ACNUR Brasil agradece o apoio de todos os seus doadores incluindo:

Doadores privados do ACNUR Brasil:

O ACNUR Brasil agradece o grande apoio e parceria com todas as outras agências da ONU, autoridades brasileiras (a nível federal, estadual e municipal) e organizações da sociedade civil envolvidas na resposta de emergência e nos programas regulares da operação brasileira.