

UNHCR IN SAO PAULO



**UNHCR
ACNUR**

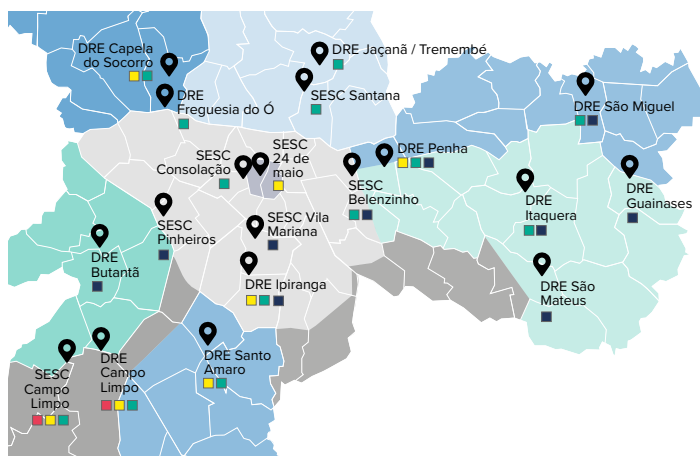
Agência da ONU para Refugiados

EDUCATION ABOUT REFUGEE AS A PRIORITY THEME FOR THE FIELD OFFICE SAO PAULO

The project *Refúgios Humanos* (Human Refuges, in English) aims to raise awareness about the topic of refugees and to discuss ways to better welcome and integrate children of different nationalities into the school environment among teachers of São Paulo municipal network. Since 2016, the project has already promoted 14 workshops and 84 meetings and has trained over 1,300 teachers in the municipality. The initiative is conducted by Sesc-SP in partnership with the Municipal Secretary of Education, counting with UNHCR support

and participation. The 2021 project cycle was initiated in April and will extend throughout the first semester, covering five Regional Education Directorates (DREs): *Butantã, Capela do Socorro, Campo Limpo, Santana* and *Tremembé*. A total of eight trainings (20-hours each) will be held in 2021, reaching around 600 teachers. The project's methodology is designed to be implemented through the participation of UNHCR São Paulo staff, refugees and education professionals, promoting the sharing of experiences, information and best practices on education.

SESC-SP OFFICES, DRES AND TOTAL OF TEACHERS PARTICIPANTS:



1st Edition: 2016

100 participants

Sesc Campo Limpo and DRE Campo Limpo

2nd Edition: 2018

200 participants

Sesc Campo Limpo and DREs Campo Limpo, Santo Amaro and Capela do Socorro + Sesc 24 De Maio and DREs Ipiranga and Penha

3rd Edition: 2019

500 participants

Sesc Campo Limpo and DREs Campo Limpo, Santo Amaro and Capela do Socorro + Sesc Consolação and DREs Penha and Ipiranga + Sesc Santana and DREs Tremembé, Jaçanã and Freguesia do Ó + Sesc Belenzinho and DREs Itaquera and São Miguel

4th Edition: 2020

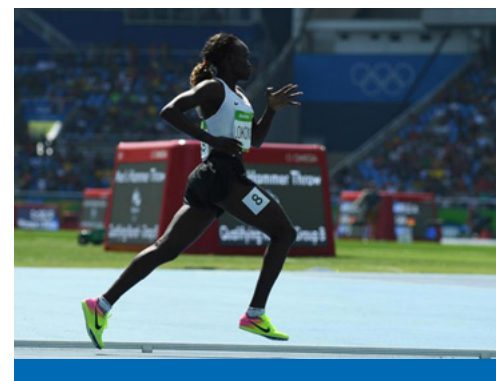
450 participants

Sesc Pinheiros and DRE Butantã + Sesc Belenzinho and DREs Itaquera, São Miguel, Guaianazes and São Mateus + Sesc Vila Mariana and DREs Penha and Ipiranga

LAUNCHING OF VIDEO IN SUPPORT OF OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC REFUGEE ATHLETES IN THE TOKYO 2020/21 OLYMPIC GAMES

On April 6th – the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace – UNHCR launched a video in support of the Olympic and Paralympic Refugee Teams. The video *“The Journey”* describes the extraordinary stories of refugee athletes aspiring to this year's Olympic Games. 60 refugee athletes and para-athletes are currently training with the hope of competing in the Tokyo Games. UNHCR is working with the International Olympic Committee

(IOC) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) to support refugee athletes who – despite the challenges represented by forced displacement and the COVID-19 pandemic – are training hard to keep alive their dreams of competing in Tokyo. The video was released in Brazil through Santos Soccer Club social media channels and at the São Paulo Metropolitan Train Company (CPTM) train platforms, both UNHCR's partners.



South Sudanese refugee Rose Nathike Lokonyen competes in the 800-meter category as part of the Olympic Refugee Athletes Team in the Rio 2016 Games.

Photo: © UNHCR/Benjamin Loyseau

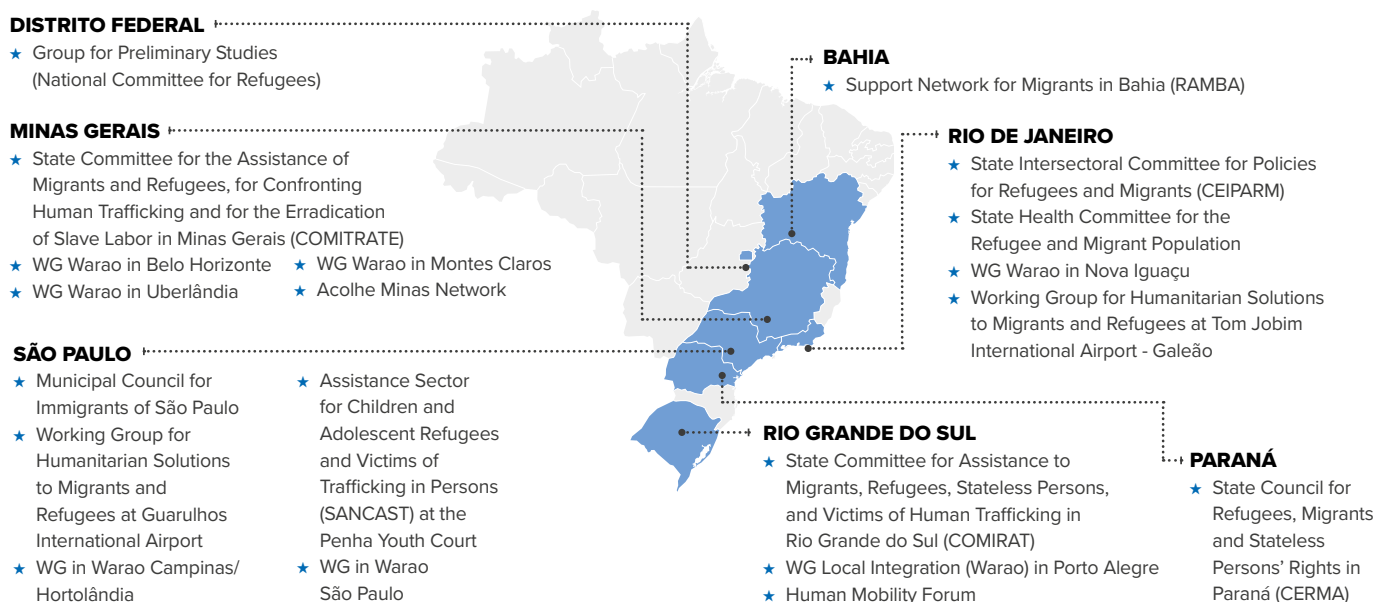
PROTECTION AND LOCAL INTEGRATION

LOCAL NETWORKS OF PROTECTIVE AND INTEGRATION STRENGTHENING

COORDINATION OF ACTIONS AND ADVOCACY IN COUNCILS, COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND FORUMS

UNHCR São Paulo currently participates in 18 local forums of coordination and articulation of policies and initiatives on behalf of refugees and migrants. These include councils, committees, thematic working groups and networks that count with the participation of over 250 government, civil society and private sector representatives. In the second bimester of 2021, UNHCR São Paulo participated and, in some cases coordinated, a total of 26 advocacy and coordination meetings at the local forums. On those occasions, for instance, UNHCR was actively engaged, together with

IOM and other members of a planning working group, in the discussions led by COMITRATE on the process of preparing the 1st State Policy Plan for Refugees, Migrants and Stateless Persons of Minas Gerais. UNHCR also acted as a member of the Electoral Committee, in the run up to the 2nd election of councilors for the Municipal Council for Immigrants of São Paulo. In April, UNHCR held a virtual meeting between different cities to share good practices in welcoming refugees and migrants, including indigenous people, involving the municipalities of *Ananindeua (PA)*, *Belém (PA)*, *Nova Iguaçu (RJ)*, *Rio de Janeiro (RJ)* and *São Paulo (SP)*.



WORKSHOPS

During March and April, UNHCR São Paulo team participated in **7 workshops for the local networks of 6 states of the South and Southeast regions**, reaching a total of **536 participants trained** in topics related to employability, access to documentation, asylum procedures, humanitarian work and international refugee law.

📍 São Paulo

UNHCR participated in a workshop for students of the “Programa de Educação Tutorial – PET” (“Tutorial Education Program”) from the International Relations course of PUC São Paulo (a SVMC university). The training was focused on humanitarian work and possibilities of action within the scope of university extension activities.

📍 Rio de Janeiro

In March, the staff of the Reference Center for Refugees at *Caritas Arquidiocesana do Rio de Janeiro* was trained on community-based protection in a workshop conducted by UNHCR São Paulo. The training is part of a strategy to improve the community approach in the state of Rio de Janeiro, which includes, among other initiatives, working with a group of refugee and migrant community promoters.

📍 Minas Gerais

Around 100 workers of the municipal social assistance and human rights policy network of Belo Horizonte took a new round of workshops focused on improving the social assistance public services provided to refugees and migrants. Over two days, UNHCR organized and delivered in-depth training regarding issuing and validation of documents and refugees and migrants’ rights, in partnership with IOM. The workshops are part of a project to strengthen municipal policies for refugees and migrants.

📍 Paraná

UNHCR São Paulo held a round of discussions with 95 asylum seekers, refugees and migrants, mostly Venezuelan citizens, about the impacts of Interministerial Ordinance #19 of 2021. The event was held in partnership with *Caritas Regional Paraná* and was attended by the Federal Public Defenders Office and by IMDH. Also in March, UNHCR launched, in partnership with the Federal University of Paraná – which integrates the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair (SVMC) – a book entitled the “*Movimentos, Memória e Refúgio*” (“Movements, Memory, and Refuge”).

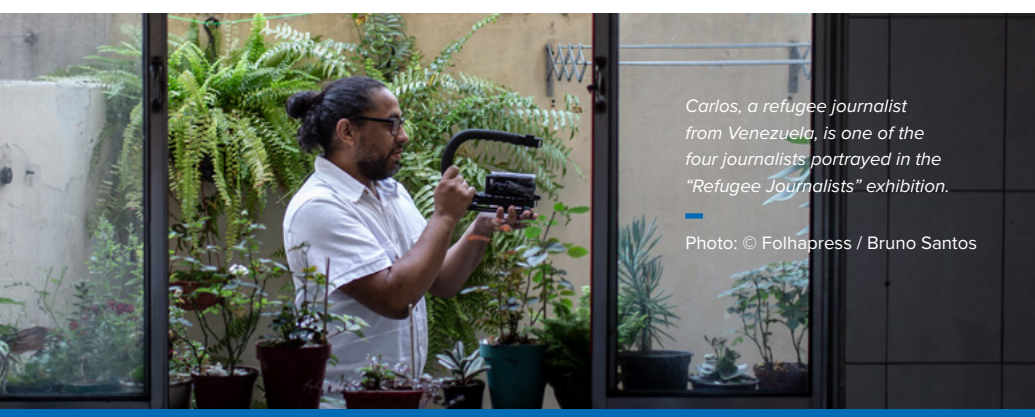
📍 Santa Catarina

UNHCR participated in a webinar held by the Federal Public Defenders Office (DPU-SC) about the employability of refugees and migrants. The Livelihoods team presented the main initiatives on the theme, including the platforms “Companies with Refugees”, “Empowering Refugee Women” and “Refugee Entrepreneurs”. The webinar was attended by 60 participants and was also supported by representatives of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), *Caritas Santa Catarina*, the University of Brasilia (UnB) and one refugee who shared his work experience in Brazil.

📍 Rio Grande do Sul

In March, 60 people were trained on asylum procedures in an event organized by the Migrant Assistance Center (CAM) of *Caxias do Sul*, in Rio Grande do Sul, in partnership with the University of Caxias do Sul (UCS). Alongside CAM, UNHCR also provided training on the issuing of documentation to approximately 100 workers of the public social assistance network of the municipality of *Passo Fundo/RS*.

📰 PUBLIC INFORMATION



REFUGEES AS A TOPIC OF GEOGRAPHY CLASSES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN SÃO PAULO

In January 2021, UNHCR São Paulo worked in partnership with the São Paulo State Secretariat of Education to provide data and information for the first video class for students enrolled in public high schools, entitled “[The Global Distribution of Wealth and the Situation of Refugees in the World](#)”. In April, the [Global Demographic Indicators](#) class was also released as a complement to the initial class. About 400 thousand students were impacted by the classes, reaffirming UNHCR as a source of information on the theme of forced displacement, also aligned with the Sustainable Development Goal #4.

WORKSHOP WITH JOURNALISTS AND COMMUNICATION STUDENTS

In April, the Public Information unit of UNHCR São Paulo promoted a workshop for communication professionals and students in the North region of the country, covering the states of Amazonas, Roraima and Pará. Out of the 199 people enrolled, 30 journalists and students from various vehicles/universities participated in the training, promoted in partnership with the Brazilian newspaper *Folha de São Paulo*. These workshops aimed at raising public awareness for the production of responsible and inclusive journalistic content, mitigating the effects of xenophobia. In addition to the workshop, UNHCR promotes the exhibition “[Refugee Journalists](#)”, featuring four journalists who sought international protection in Brazil.

PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The initiatives in celebration of International Women’s Day (March 8th) included the launch of the “[Valente é a sua voz!](#)” (“[Voice Your Courage!](#)”) booklet, produced by *Caritas Regional Paraná* in partnership with the extension project Brazilian Portuguese for Humanitarian Migration (PBMIH) and with the Human Rights Observatory of the Federal University of Paraná (UFPR), with the support of UNHCR São Paulo. The material seeks to provide guidance and raise awareness about gender-based violence among refugee and migrant women and girls, with emphasis on domestic violence, and serves as a source of information to support and protection networks. The Booklet is available in 6 languages: Portuguese, Arabic, English, Spanish, Haitian Creole and French



LIVELIHOODS

INTERIORIZATION TO BELO HORIZONTE (MG)

On March, 29 Venezuelans were voluntarily relocated to Vila Alberto Hurtado Reception and Integration Center, in Belo Horizonte-MG, as part of the institutional modality of the Interiorization Strategy. The center is managed by Jesuit Service for Migrants and Refugees (SJMR) in partnership with UNHCR São Paulo. During their stay at the center, these people will be supported with referral to public services, protection analysis and professional experience assessment, support in the preparation of CVs, and identification of job opportunities. [Find more](#) about reception and integration centers and assistance services offered by UNHCR and its partners in the Brazilian territory.



“PROGRAMA DE APOIO PARA A RECOLOCAÇÃO DOS REFUGIADOS” (PARR) CONDUCTS 385 REFERRALS FOR INTERVIEWS IN 2020, RESULTING IN 69 PEOPLE HIRED

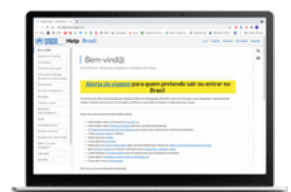
With the support of UNHCR São Paulo, the Refugee Placement Support Program (PARR) was created in 2011 by EMDOC, a consultancy company specialized in immigration, with the aim of promoting the integration of refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants into the Brazilian society through their inclusion in the job market. In 2020, the program was restructured and became the first employability project supported by UNHCR to provide extensive online assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The new methodology focuses exclusively on an online placement support operation. During the last year, 74 new companies were registered in the project. PARR made 385 referrals for interviews, of which 276 were conducted and 69 people were formally hired, in the areas of Administration, Operations, General Services and Young Apprentice program.

COMMUNICATING WITH REFUGEES

HELP PLATFORM HITS RECORD OF VISITS IN MARCH

One of the biggest challenges faced by refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons worldwide is to have access to reliable and up-to-date information about their rights and services in the host country. That being so, on November 13th of 2018, UNHCR launched the Help website (help.unhcr.org/brazil) in Brazil, a digital platform that serves as a source of useful information for this population. In 2021, the increasing number of visitors to the platform demonstrates that it has become a reference for the refugee and migrant population and also for professionals of the assistance network throughout the country. In March the platform has reached a record number of 21 thousand visitors in a month period. The most accessed pages were: “where to seek help”, “residence and naturalization”, “documents” and “coronavirus: transit and borders”. The cities with most visitors were São Paulo, Manaus, Rio de Janeiro, Curitiba and Boa Vista.



Visit: help.unhcr.org/brazil

“Help supports me in my needs and specific doubts since it offers a wide range of information and has a user-friendly interface.”

Luiza Roberta Solera Gagliardi, Legal Protection Advisor at Caritas Brasileira Regional Paraná.

The Help platform is available in 5 languages: Portuguese, Spanish, English, French and Arabic.



@ACNURBrasil
 /ACNURPortugues
 @acnurbrasil
 /company/acnurportugues
 ACNUR Brasil

UNHCR Brazil appreciates the support of all its donors, including:



UNHCR's private sector donors:



UNHCR Brazil appreciates the support and partnership with all other UN agencies, Brazilian authorities (at federal, state and municipal levels) and civil society organizations involved in the emergency response and in the regular programs of the Brazilian operation.