

# UNHCR IN RORAIMA



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## A SPOTLIGHT ON ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Violence against women and girls (the most prevalent form of gender-based violence, GBV) is one of the most widespread, enduring and devastating human rights violations in the world. During their displacement and when living in a host country, different forms of violence and gender inequity mark the trajectory of Venezuelan women, including physical, sexual, or psychological violence, as well as economic abuse and exploitation. To raise awareness about this issue, civil society and United Nations organizations lead the “16 Days of Activism against Violence Against Women and Girls”, an annual international campaign that, in Brazil, starts on 20 November 2021.

UNHCR, together with partners, public institutions and other UN agencies, contributed in organizing approximately 110 activities, including around 70 focus group discussions with refugee and host communities; 20 workshops with various themes related to GBV prevention; 10 cultural activities; and 10 other awareness raising activities in Boa Vista and Pacaraima. The activities took place in indigenous and non-indigenous shelters, public institution buildings, and public spaces, reaching more than 350 women, men, children and adolescents, elderly and LGBTQIA+ people. Besides, during the period, UNHCR distributed around 1,500 informative materials and spread messages of the campaign through a sound-truck. These efforts confirm UNHCR’s goal of contributing to empowering the refugee community and strengthening their protection, ensuring a safer future for Venezuelan and Brazilian women and girls.

## PROTECTION AND LOCAL INTEGRATION

### MONITORING OF THE REFUGEE AND MIGRANT POPULATION

SINCE APRIL 2018

# 208,358

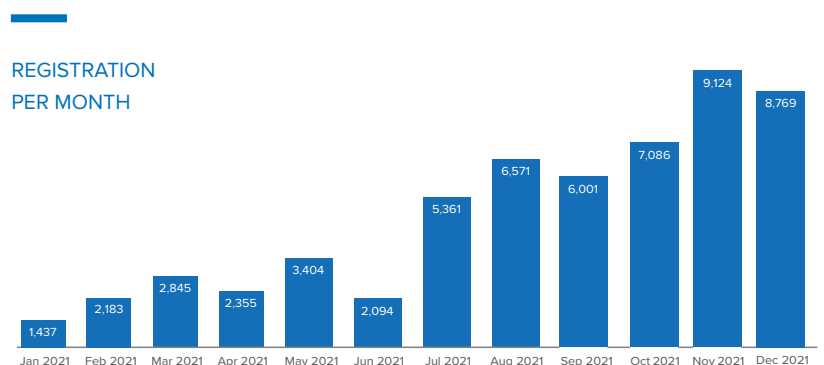
people were registered in Roraima on proGres v4

IN 2018  
40,220

IN 2019  
79,024

IN 2020  
31,884

IN 2021  
57,230



## 2ND EDITION OF THE INTEGRAARTE FAIR

On 13 November, UNHCR in coordination with IOM, FSF (Fraternidade Sem Fronteiras), SJMR (Serviço Jesuíta a Migrantes e Refugiados), AVSI Brazil (Associação Voluntários para o Serviço Internacional), The Salvation Army, A Casa – Museu do Objeto Brasileiro, Fé e Alegria, Fraternity - International Humanitarian Federation, World Vision and the Humanitarian-Logistical Task Force of Operation Welcome, supported the 2nd edition of the IntegraArte entrepreneurship fair, an event created in 2019, that took place at the Roraima Garden Shopping, in Boa Vista.

The fair is an initiative of Operation Welcome's Labour Working Group, which gathered 33 micro and small entrepreneurs from a wide range of sectors, such as indigenous handicraft, floriculture, visual arts, clothing, cosmetics, and woodworking. Aiming to promote an environment of cultural exchanges, the event had the active participation of Venezuelan refugees and migrants and host community population. In preparation for the fair, UNHCR, in partnership with SENAC (Serviço Nacional de Aprendizagem Comercial), offered a one-week course on entrepreneurship skills to the exhibitors.



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## INTERIORIZATION: A STRATEGY WITH POSITIVE RESULTS

In December, UNHCR, UN Women and UNFPA released the results of the first round of data collection for an innovative research about the impacts of the voluntary relocation strategy of Venezuelans in Brazil. From April 2018 to November 2021, more than 64,400 Venezuelan people who received support from the Welcome Operation had the opportunity to rebuild their lives in one of the 778 cities distributed across all the regions of Brazil.

The first phase of the research reveals that the interiorization allowed an increasing household income, as well as better access to basic services. In terms of health, for example, interiorized households had more access to prenatal healthcare. Regarding education, Venezuelans -below 18 years old obtained better access to schools and kindergartens. Data shows that local public policies in Brazil should further consider cross-cutting issues in order to offset deeper inequalities that affect potentially marginalized groups of refugees and migrants, such as women (especially black women) and LGBTQIA+ people. To access the results of the first phase, [click here](#).



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## ASSESSING NFI (NON-FOOD ITEMS) DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANCE EFFICIENCY

The Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) is a mechanism to collect refugees and migrants' feedback on the quality, sufficiency, utilization and effectiveness of the assistance of items distributed in shelters of Roraima. The underlying principle behind the process is linked to accountability (including to the sheltered community), as well as a commitment to improve the quality and relevance of the support provided, and related services.



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The PDM was conducted in October, reaching 428 households (including single persons) in all 14 indigenous and non-indigenous shelters from Boa Vista and Pacaraima. The results have shown that the majority of the population living in shelters are satisfied with the distribution process, especially for what concerns the process information as well as the usefulness and utility of the hygiene and cleaning kits. PDM exercises are conducted regularly, and a new edition of this NFI report will be launched in the first semester of 2022. You can read the [PDM report here](#).

## COMMUNICATION WITH COMMUNITIES

### FIGHT AGAINST DISINFORMATION THROUGH SOCIAL NETWORKS



Since their introduction, social networks have been one of the most used tools for disseminating information to refugees and migrants all over the world, especially in the context of the Venezuelan population displacement. A significant part of this population has access to internet through mobile phones, as indicated in one research elaborated by R4V (Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela) in 2020. Although these resources allow rapid and practical access to information on rights and services available, the social networks can also be zones of disinformation.

In this regard, seeking to fight against fake news and providing reliable and updated information to Venezuelan refugees and migrants, UNHCR signed a partnership with Meta (a technology company managing Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp), for disseminating ads directed to newly arrived Venezuelans in Roraima and Amazonas. The initiative aims to reduce the cases of fraud and protecting vulnerable population from disinformation more efficiently. Through the Help platform and the Chama chatbot (the automatic WhatsApp), refugees and migrants are accessing details on documentation procedures and services to find labour opportunities. The first phase of the project will be concluded in February 2022.

## LIVELIHOODS

### CROSSING DIGITAL BORDERS

During the reporting period, 30 Venezuelan refugees and migrants were certified upon conclusion of their e-courses on Microsoft 365 e Power Platform offered by Microsoft Brazil as a result of a partnership between IFC (International Finance Corporation), UNHCR and AVSI Brazil. This is a pilot edition of the Digital Frontier project that is training Venezuelan refugee and migrants living in shelters of Roraima on key digital tools and resources for digital literacy, offering 70% of the vacancies to women.

These activities aim to improve the socio-economic integration of vulnerable Venezuelans in Brazil through more qualified jobs. For that, UNCHR has donated 20 computers and 20 headsets to the project participants. In addition to the devices, the project provides technical training and mentorship, which can expand employment opportunities for refugees and migrants.



## SUPPORTING THE INTEGRATION OF THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY

UNHCR in partnership with ATERR (Associação de Travestis, Transexuais e Transgêneros do Estado de Roraima), ILO (International Labour Organization) and the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights, enrolled 15 refugees and migrants from the LGBTQIA+ community in the “Portuguese for foreigners” course offered by SENAC Roraima.

Participants include both sheltered individuals and those living outside the shelters. This is step one of three courses that will be offered by SENAC for the LGBTQIA+ community in Boa Vista.

## A SAFER EXIT FROM THE SHELTERS

During November and December, 38 persons participating in the Novo Caminhar project completed the training promoted by SJMR. The Novo Caminhar is a UNHCR project in partnership with SJMR, AVSI Brazil and FSF that facilitates the safe and voluntary exit from the shelters of vulnerable families. The project focuses on families that already have a stable source of income but have not yet been able to reach self-reliance by their own means. The families benefit from a 4 month-session training on topics relevant to their local integration such as financial education, how to access the local public services, and mapping of houses available for rent. The families also receive three months of cash assistance to support their process of transitioning to a rented house. By the end of 2021, the project has benefited 63 households across eight shelters in Boa Vista.



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## CAPACITY BUILDING

### TRAINING ON COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION

In December, UNHCR held a training on Theory and Practice of Community-Based Protection (CBP) for UNHCR staff and partners. The community-based protection is an approach in which communities engage meaningfully and substantially in all aspects of humanitarian programmes that affect them, strengthening the community’s leading role as a driving force for change. Twenty-seven persons participated in the two-day training that encompassed the main concepts and guidelines for working with CBP and proposed practical exercises to the participants, culminating in the elaboration of work plans to address challenges and needs identified while working with communities.



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 FIELD UNIT OF PACARAIMA

**PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT WITH INDIGENOUS POPULATION**

During November, UNHCR conducted a participatory assessment in indigenous host communities close to Pacaraima city. The main objective of this initiative was promoting the leadership of communities while identifying problems and solutions. It also aimed to provide inputs to the planning of the next year’s activities, especially concerning protection. Focus groups with 90 Venezuelan and Brazilian children and adolescents (12-18 years old) from the Ye’kuana and Pemón-Taupang ethnic groups were carried out at Tarau-Parú, Sakaumotá, Sorocaima 1, and Bananal communities. The conversations emphasized the topics related to their life plans in Brazil (such as access to the labour market, quality of education, and access to higher education).



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