

# November 2022 Newsletter - UNHCR BRAZIL

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UNHCR supports authorities for finding solutions to the reception of Afghans in Brazil



UNHCR has further strengthened the response to Afghan nationals in the state of São Paulo. In November, part of this work involved supporting Brazilian authorities to comprehensively map the needs and challenges of Afghan refugees so that suitable interventions could be designed.

In this sense, on 3 November, UNHCR participated in the public hearing organized by the Permanent Joint Commission on International Migration and Refugees (CMMIR) of the National Congress to discuss the current scenario of Afghan nationals arriving in the country. UNHCR provided an overview of this emergency and emphasized the importance of the humanitarian visa policy adopted by the Brazilian Government for the protection of Afghans. UNHCR also further illustrated actions that are being explored with partners and state authorities, including expanding shelter opportunities nationwide and engaging with the private sector to promote livelihood opportunities. As a result, on 9 November, CMMIR chose to present to the 2023 budget bill a proposal for the allocation of USD 28 million to the Ministry of Defense for humanitarian reception actions, such as the setting up of temporary accommodation spaces and food supply, among other initiatives.

Likewise, in November, a new operational model was introduced by the Municipality of Guarulhos in the airport, following UNHCR's advocacy and technical guidance. Under the new approach, UNHCR is now maintaining a daily presence at the airport for the timely identification and orientation of new arrivals and their referral to shelters and other services. So far, the new model has been a success: the number of people staying at GRU has drastically reduced and over 200 relocations of Afghans to public and civil society shelters were carried out, including to Todos Irmãos temporary shelter in Guarulhos and Aldeias Infantis SOS in Poá - both facilities funded by UNHCR.



From discrimination to language barriers, refugees and migrants face various challenges when trying to integrate the labour market. In a time where countries are facing high unemployment rates and economies are not fully recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic, finding a job becomes even more difficult.

That said, in the capitals of Manaus and in the state of Roraima, the services, agriculture and industry sectors have the capacity for absorbing Venezuelan refugee and migrant labour force, providing these communities with decent work environments and human dignity. This is what emerged in the research "Promotion of autonomy and local integration of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Roraima and Manaus: productive sector and opportunities", launched on 21 November. The study was conducted by UNHCR, Polis Pesquisa, and AVSI, with support from the Public Labor Prosecution Service of Amazonas and Roraima (MPT-AM/RR). The research not only analyses the job opportunities in these regions, but also shows that employers in these states are already benefiting from the cultural exchange and knowledge brought by these professionals. In this regard, interviewed employers brought up positive aspects of this workforce, evaluating that refugees are willing to move wherever there are job opportunities, are hardworking in learning and performing tasks, have good interpersonal skills, in addition to being able to bring new cultures and innovation capacity to the workplace.

Read the full research here at bit.ly/3VaGmkr



## 16 Days of Activism campaign kicks off

Learn more about the initiative at **<u>bit.ly/3WcUbjl</u>** 

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The 16 Days of Activism is an annual and international campaign to mobilize individuals and organizations worldwide to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls. It begins on 25 November, on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, International Human Rights Day.

In Brazil, the campaign involves a series of information and awareness-raising activities for preventing gender-based violence and encouraging women's economic empowerment nationwide. For its launch, UNHCR in Manaus facilitated the special orange lighting of the Amazonas Theatre, followed by focus group discussions in different neighborhoods on women's empowerment and peaceful coexistence. As for Boa Vista, the campaign kicked off with several focus group discussions on positive masculinities and gendered economic violence.

Furthermore, UNHCR invited 14 Brazilian female athletes from six Brazilian football teams and four volleyball squads to share messages on gender-based violence on UNHCR's social media accounts to expand the outreach of the 16 Days of Activism campaign to an even more diversified audience.



## Key partners visiting Brazil and better knowing UNHCR's work

In November, UNHCR supported the field visits of key partners of UNHCR Brazil. From 14 to 18 November, UNHCR accompanied the delegation of its largest donor, the United States of America through the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) from the US Department of State. The delegation had the opportunity to see firsthand how the joint response for Venezuelan refugees and migrants is coordinated on the ground and meet with the people we serve in Operation Welcome spaces in Boa Vista, Pacaraima, and Manaus. The agenda also covered some key integration initiatives supported by UNHCR and partners, as well as interagency briefings with UN agencies.

From 23 to 25 November, it was the time for the World Bank to visit Roraima and better understand the work being done in reception facilities and emergency shelters, specifically discussing livelihoods initiatives on site. The institution has three ongoing joint research projects with UNHCR, and it was important for them to get a closer look at the challenges faced by Venezuelan refugees and migrants in their economic integration pathways in Brazil.

On 30 November, UNHCR accompanied the visit to Boa Vista of a delegation composed of the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) representatives. The field visit was an opportunity to showcase how European Union's contributions assist UNHCR in responding to the needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, especially through reception, protection, and shelter support.



## **Donation Day!**

On 29 November, UNHCR's supporters Letícia Spiller, Danni Suzuki and player Marcelo Vieira engaged in the #DiaDeDoar solidarity movement and supported UNHCR Brazil's #ComidaPraViagem campaign, with a special appeal to refugees who face hunger and food insecurity in the world. More than 1.7 million people were reached by the action.

To support the campaign, access .bit.ly/30vujMZ

### HIGHLIGHTS

### UNHCR launches sports webpage

On 9 November, UNHCR launched a webpage focused on sport as a protection and integration tool for forcibly displaced people, listing several sports initiatives implemented and supported by UNHCR globally and in Brazil. The page also counts with a letter of intent, signed by relevant Brazilian football clubs to address disinformation on refugees and to promote social media content in solidarity with them. See the webpage at acnur.org/portugues/esportes

R4V Inter-Sectoral Workshop on Education and Capacity Building Initiatives for Indigenous Venezuelans

On 9 November, the R4V Platform held an Inter-Sectoral Workshop on Education and Capacity Building Initiatives for Indigenous Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela to discuss Portuguese learning and formal education opportunities, as well as professional, entrepreneurship and financial education activities.

#### New members of Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair

On 23 November, UNHCR formalized the 37th partnership under the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair, bringing to the initiative the Federal University of Amazonas that will foster education, asylum-related research, and outreach programs in support of refugees in the state of Amazonas. National presentation of the RMNA Brazilian chapter to partners

On 25 November, the R4V platform presented the Brazilian chapter of the Refugee and Migrant Needs Analysis (RMNA) to local Embassies and other key international partners supporting the humanitarian response in Brazil. The event included an overview of the latest population trends and situational developments affecting Operation Welcome and outlined the most pressing humanitarian needs of refugees and migrants from Venezuela in the country. See the analysis at bit.ly/3V6JkqQ

#### Mi Casa Tu Casa project as top 5 of the Jabuti Award

The "Mi Casa, Tu Casa" project is among the five finalists of the 64th Jabuti Prize 2022 in the "Innovation - Fostering Reading" category. Implemented since August 2021, by Hands On Human Rights and JOCA newspaper, with the support of UNHCR, the project provides Venezuelan children and youth living in shelters with access to a collection of books donated by Brazilian children, stimulating imagination and learning skills, while also fostering local integration. Read more at bit.ly/3YDknp7

### DASHBOARDS

 CONARE's Decisions
bit.ly/3u4olnK  Internal Relocation I Strategy <u>bit.ly/3asTv3C</u>

 Shelters in Roraima
bit.ly/3dcF6dT

 Indigenous people
bit.ly/3xzTt4L

### PUBLICATIONS

acnur.org/portugues/publicacoes/

 UNHCR Brazil – Interiorization Report (Sept-Oct) 2022 <u>bit.ly/3BKPDbV</u>

34% funded

UNHCR Brazil Funding update

AS OF 24 NOVEMBER 2022

US\$ 52,5 million UNHCR's financial requeriments in 2022

Tightly earmaked Earmaked Softly earmaked (indicative allocation)

Unearmaked (indicative allocation)

Funding gap (indicative)

For more information: **reporting.unhcr.org** 

