On 30 March, 144 people boarded the flight that marked the milestone of 100,000 Venezuelans relocated from the North of Brazil to other parts of the country since 2018.

Among the passengers were 15 elderly people who were welcomed at the Casa de Acolhida – Jardim Paraíso, a specific reception service of the Nova Iguaçu Municipal Secretariat of Social Assistance for elderly refugees and migrants.

The group had been living in emergency shelters in Boa Vista (RR) for months and was looking for an opportunity to resume their lives with dignity in Brazil. Indalecio Perez, 65 years old, was on the flight and gave an emotional speech upon arrival in Nova Iguaçu (RJ): “I am sure that you feel in your soul the same joy that I am feeling”.

Older adults, when traveling alone, encounter additional barriers in accessing durable solutions. Besides the risk of xenophobia due to nationality, they face difficulties in learning Portuguese, adapting to work dynamics in Brazil, dealing with the lack of digital inclusion and, like Brazilians, suffer from ageism when looking for a job and demonstrating their talent and willpower.

In operation since 2020, the Casa de Acolhida was initially supported with federal resources and later started to be financed by the municipality. With capacity for up to 25 people, this is the second group of elderly Venezuelans hosted at the site.
UNHCR data between January and March

Performance of UNHCR in the Institutional modality of Interiorization

171 people welcomed in 7 reception and integration centers supported by UNHCR

Of a total of 472 beneficiaries of the modality

R$235,845 allocated by UNHCR to financial assistance (CBI) for the Institutional modality

- 213 installments provided
- 402 people benefited
- 98 families benefited

Distribution of people welcomed per reception and integration center

- Distrito Federal (DF)
  - Aldeias Infantis (33)
  - Casa de Acolhida - Jardim Paraíso (15)
- Rio de Janeiro (RJ)
  - Aldeias Infantis (86)
- Cuiabá (MT)
  - Centro Pastoral do Migrante (12)
- São Paulo (SP)
  - Aldeias Infantis (19)
  - Vale da Benção (2)

Performance of UNHCR in the Employment-based modality of Interiorization

115 people benefited by UNHCR in the Employment-based modality

R$55,693 allocated by UNHCR to financial assistance (CBI) for the Employment-based modality

- 54 installments provided
- 115 people benefited
- 52 families benefited

Economic sectors of the offered jobs

- Technology
- Pharmaceutical
- Telecommunications
- Food
- Agriculture
- Automotive
- Civil construction
- Shopping malls
- Hospitality

Special flight 8M

On the International Women’s Day, a flight departed from Boa Vista with 35 Venezuelan women hired by companies in the food and service sectors. The Operation Welcome initiative sought to raise awareness on the need to increase relocations attached to job offers for women, who account for only 19% of the adult population interiorized in the employment-based modality.

Glenda, an LGBTQI+ woman, arrived in Brazil determined to get a job to pay for her grandmother’s treatment. “I suffered a lot with discrimination and mistreatment for being who I am, my grandmother was the only one who didn’t turn her back on me and always supported me. But she got very sick, between life and death, and my salary was not enough to take care of her health”. With just one month in Boa Vista, Glenda was approved in a job hiring process and embarked to work as a kitchen assistant in Curitiba (PR).

Sheltering for Interiorization

People welcomed in the shelters of Operation Welcome supported by UNHCR in partnership with AVSI Brazil

- 417 people sheltered in the BV-8 Transit Shelter in Pacaraima in the Interiorization flow
- 3,828 (45%) people welcomed in the emergency shelters of Boa Vista were interiorized, of which 2,065 were from the Rondon 5 Interiorization Center
Overview of the Interiorization Strategy from April 2018 to December 2022

The Federal Government’s Interiorization strategy, implemented by Operação Acolhida, voluntarily relocates Venezuelan refugees and migrants from the states of Roraima and Amazonas to other cities in the country. UNHCR, in partnership with other UN agencies and civil society organizations, has supported the strategy since its launch. Learn more about the Interiorization strategy and UNHCR’s work.

100,297 refugees and migrants relocated in all modalities

Performance of UNHCR in the Institutional modality of Interiorization

6,587 people welcomed in more than 50 reception and integration centers supported by UNHCR.

Of a total of 15,066 people benefited by the modality

R$3,245,683 allocated by UNHCR to financial assistance (CBI) for the Institutional modality

Performance of UNHCR in the Employment-based modality of Interiorization

R$2,022,581 allocated by UNHCR to financial assistance (Cash assistance) for the EBM modality

Shelter accommodations for Interiorization

54,358 people supported by UNHCR for Interiorization purposes

Distribution of people welcomed per shelter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shelter</th>
<th>People Welcomed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BV-8 Pacaraima</td>
<td>9,254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rondon 5 Boa Vista</td>
<td>23,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manaus Transit Shelter*</td>
<td>21,929</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* In operation between July 2019 and October 2022

Donor countries of UNHCR in Brazil and global programmes with flexible funding that supports the humanitarian response in the country

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.