

October 2022 NEWSLETTER - UNHCR BRAZIL

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UNHCR efforts to the reception of Afghans in Brazil

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Over the past months, coordinated efforts by local actors in São Paulo – including UNHCR – resulted in delivering humanitarian assistance to about 1,000 newly arrived Afghan nationals who needed food, shelter, legal orientation, cash, and core relief items. However, when arriving to Brazil, Afghan refugees face socio-cultural challenges that impact their local integration – which prompts specific efforts of local networks to mitigate them and ensure refugees can improve their potential to establish sustainable livelihoods and attain a growing degree of self-reliance.

In the last week of October, UNHCR and Caritas São Paulo organized a capacity building session with around 50 Afghans who had just arrived or were already living in Brazil. In the occasion, practical knowledge was shared on the functioning of the Public Health System (SUS), public transportation, employment contracts, and other references of public services and civil society organizations that support refugees. Now, these individuals will act as information multipliers, thus strengthening community mobilization, protection support and successful integration.

In addition, UNHCR facilitated a meeting in the Federal District for Afghan judges who were hosted in Brasilia by the Association of Brazilian Magistrates in 2021 and recently arrived Afghan refugees. In that occasion, the judges were able to share experiences about their integration process and talk about the challenges encountered, giving advice and tips to ease this process for the newly arrived. Other events to support the gathering of Afghan nationals in Brasília and surrounding areas were also promoted in the spirit of fostering of links between these persons and a network of mutual support and kinship.



I Meeting of the Refugee Entrepreneurs Platform in Boa Vista and Brasília



In October, the Refugee Entrepreneurs platform – an initiative of UNHCR and UN Global Compact Brazil - promoted its first in-person meeting in the state of Roraima and in the Federal District. About 100 refugees and migrants, mainly Venezuelans, attended the events where they had the opportunity to learn more about digital marketing, entrepreneurship, and access to microcredit, while also sharing best practices for growing their businesses. The occasion was also an important moment for the entrepreneurs to learn more about the resources offered by the platform, such as free online professional training courses, mentoring programs, lists of institutions that offer credit to refugees and information materials on individual micro-entrepreneur (MEI) and other key topics.

Learn more about the initiative at **refugiadosempreendedores.com.br**



Mujeres Fuertes supports single mothers with entrepreneurship skills and financial autonomy

Single mothers, especially those with small children, often face compounding struggles: trying to care for children single-handed, with little or no income, in a new country that often has a different culture and language, while at the same time coping with personal issues can make day-to-day problems seem totally overwhelming.

Empowering them involves expanding the available opportunities for them to establish their normal life in Brazil and seeking solutions together with them. These considerations lie behind the initiative "Mujeres Fuertes", jointly established by UNHCR, Instituto Mana, Hermanitos and the Public Labor Prosecution Service (MPT-AM/RR).

The project seeks to support refugee and migrant women at the beginning of their entrepreneurial journey or insertion into the labor market in Manaus, fostering their financial autonomy by offering vocational courses, protection support, and a small financial aid to cover their basic needs while they undertake or enter the labor market.

At the beginning of October, the project celebrated the ending of its first edition with a ceremony, which involved 50 Venezuelan women who undertook courses of entrepreneurship and gastronomy. Later in the month, the second edition kicked off benefiting another 50 Venezuelan women heads of households with training, psychosocial support, and networking, including delivery of supplies and cash support.



UNHCR Brazil draws attention for the global emergency of hunger among refugees in the #ComidaPraViagem campaign

Pandemic, wars, inflation. Food prices have skyrocketed around the world, and 828 million people are starving, according to a recent United Nations report – a stomach-churning figure. The food crisis becomes an even more serious challenge among the refugee population, who have had to leave their country due to conflicts, persecution or other human rights violations.

It is in this context that UNHCR Brazil launched, on the World Food Day (16 October), the #ComidaPraViagem campaign. It raises public awareness of the disproportionate effects of hunger among people who have been forcibly displaced and invites Brazilians to support UNHCR's work amid increasingly complex global emergencies.

Donate at bit.ly/30vujMZ

HIGHLIGHTS

First course on humanitarian coverage and avoiding disinformation for journalism students of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair

In October, UNHCR promoted the first course on humanitarian coverage and how to avoid disinformation for journalism students of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair. Around 250 students from 6 universities of the Southeast of Brazil attended the workshop, that will be replicated in Boa Vista in November.

Capacity building for airline companies in the Guarulhos International Airport (GRU)

As a result of the cooperation agreement for the protection of non-admitted people, UNHCR held in October a capacity building for 30 members from airline companies that work in the GRU aiming to promote more efficient coordination with the Advanced Post for Humanized Assistance to Migrants and ensure a sensitized and culturally aware approach to refugees and migrants.

Academic support for teaching and research on refugee issues

In October, UNHCR Brazil hosted professors from universities of Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, and Ethiopia that are not only promoting teaching and research on Refugee Law, but also building advocacy initiatives in support of refugees and stateless persons in their countries. In their visit to São Paulo, the group got to know more about the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair (SVMAC) and explore opportunities to expand this network of universities abroad.

Launch of the "Guide for refugees and migrants on health services in Belém"

UNHCR, UNICEF and ADRA launched the "Guide for refugees and migrants on health services in Belém" in an event that counted with the participation of 30 community health workers from the capital of Pará. On the occasion, members of the Warao community accounted challenges faced by them when accessing health services, such as difficulties in communicating with health workers due to language barrier and lack of understanding of the Brazilian health system. See the guide at bit.ly/3GMNCzo

R4V published the Refugee and Migrant Needs Analysis (RMNA 2022)

In October, the Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V) published a collective analysis on the needs of refugees and migrants from Venezuela in 17 Latin American and Caribbean countries covered by the R4V response. Among its results, the Refugee and Migrant Needs Analysis (RMNA 2022) shows that, years after the emergency started, refugees and migrants from Venezuela in the region continue living in uncertainty, moving along dangerous routes and without access to basic needs, such as food and shelter. See the analysis at bit.ly/3V6JkqQ

DASHBOARDS

- CONARE's Decisions
 <u>bit.ly/3u4olnK</u>
- Internal Relocation Strategy
 bit.ly/3asTv3C
- Shelters in Roraima bit.ly/3dcF6dT
- Indigenous people
 bit.ly/3xzTt4L

PUBLICATIONS

acnur.org/portugues/publicacoes/

- UNHCR Brazil September Factsheet bit.ly/3EZ77n7
- UNHCR Brazil Arrival Trends Snapshot bit.ly/3OzMEIT



