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Cities of Solidarity in the Americas

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

In the Americas, the majority of displaced and stateless people live in urban or peri-urban areas. In this context, **local authorities** play a **leading role** in the search and achievement of local integration. Local authorities can provide **access to services** in their territory and are also in the position to **generate quick changes in local policies** which can positively and immediately affect the lives of the people UNHCR serves. Nonetheless, **challenges** to achieve integration are considerable at the **local level**, above all for small municipalities and peripheral cities due to limited **human** and **financial resources** or little **support** and **coordination** from the central government.

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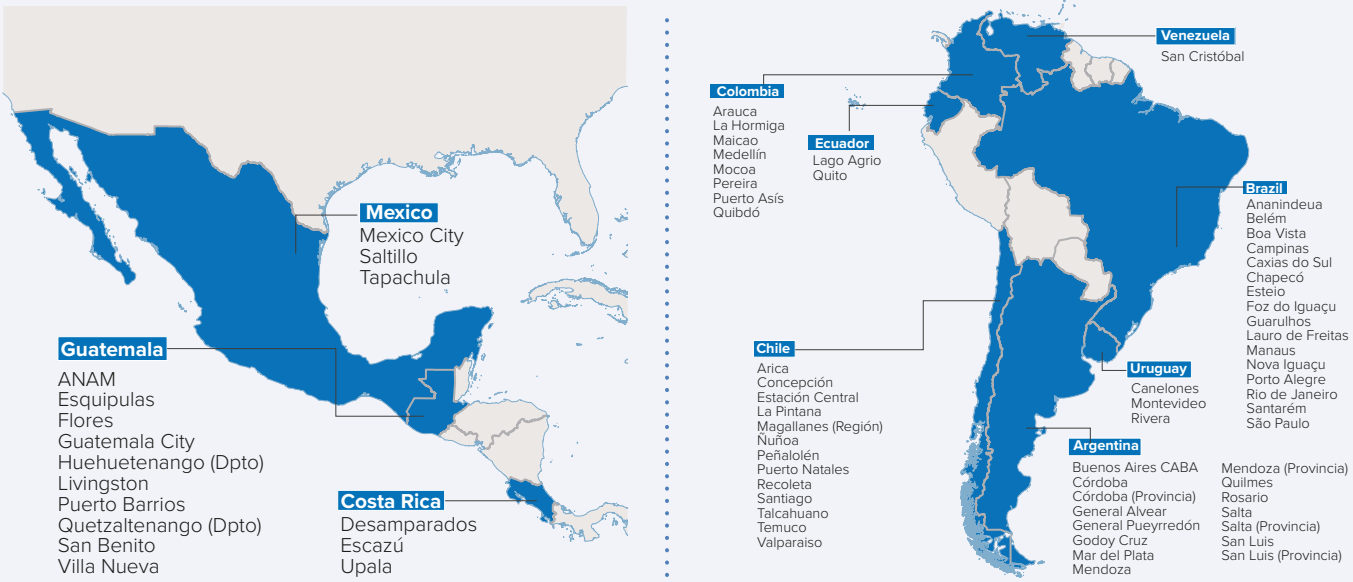
INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The "Cities of Solidarity" initiative stems from the recommendations identified by States in the region under the **2004 Mexico Plan of Action** and the **2014 Brazil Plan of Action**, aimed at recognizing local governments' efforts to provide protection and integration.

The initiative has developed a **self-assessment tool** aimed to provide diagnostics and prioritization of public policy issues connected to the inclusion of the people UNHCR serves. This reference framework was developed upon the **10 core criteria** a stylized representation of key aspects of local integration, the backbone of the Cities of Solidarity framework.



Americas

Mercociudades (Network)

66 Cities **7** Provinces **2** Municipalities' Associations

FROM THE FIELD

Montevideo provides job training for refugees and migrants

The **programme** is part of the agreement between UNHCR and the Secretariat of Racial Ethnic Equity and Migrant Populations of the city. Seventy-six people completed the training process delivered by "Casa de la Mujer de la Unión" on subjects such as customer service, home care services, sales, marketing, eCommerce and logistics.

Tapachula launches a training program for people in the context of mobility.

The municipality of Tapachula launched the training **program** as part of the "Somos Familia" program that seeks to consolidate a municipal public policy in caring for people on the move through actions and projects on the topics of reception, health, employment, education and social cohesion.

For more information related to UNHCR's response in the Americas at **Global Focus**

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INITIATIVES

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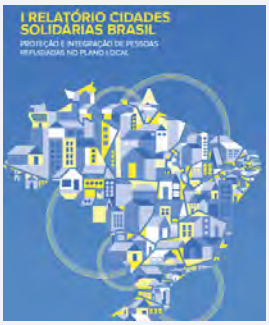
UNHCR and Mercociudades signed a strategic regional agreement

UNHCR and the **Mercociudades** Network of Cities signed the agreement during the XXVII Mercociudades Summit on 2 December 2022. This **framework agreement** will facilitate the incorporation of local governments that are members of Mercociudades into the "Cities of Solidarity" initiative, thus promoting local government actions that seek to guarantee the protection and socio-economic inclusion of asylum-seekers, refugees, migrants and stateless persons. The agreement also seeks to develop strategies to facilitate their access to policies, programmes and services, as well as to promote the exchange of good practices between local governments, build capacities and promote awareness among their officials.

UNHCR launched a report on Cities of Solidarity in Brazil



The regional initiative was adapted to the Brazilian context, listing 27 **good practices** from 17 municipal administrations that promote actions for the integration of refugees in five thematic axes: Shelter, Protection, Responsibility Sharing, Education and Local Integration.

The report highlights both the role of cities in responding to refugees, through a brief overview of asylum and migration in the Brazil and the institutional advances in the country, and the good practices adopted in by local authorities by pointing out some methodological considerations about the identified local practices. With this Report, UNHCR recognizes the commitment of cities and hopes to inspire others to promote more inclusive policies for refugees and migrants.

UNHCR and Guatemala City fostered ties in 2022

UNHCR provided computer equipment for the MuniEduca program, which implements movement-based learning techniques aimed at children and young people in Guatemala City, especially those who are in a situation of vulnerability regardless of their nationality. Support was also provided to municipal educational centres with sports supplies so that refugee children and adolescents with protection needs could practice different sports. Two containers with equipment were delivered to the Workshop School and the Municipal Transport Company. This will support the access asylum-seekers and refugees to education, in a context of human mobility and with protection needs who live in the metropolitan area.

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UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors to the countries in the Americas. Also, we thank the fundamental support provided by donors who have contributed to UNHCR´sglobal programmes with flexible funding.

Thank you to all our donors

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