

BRAZIL

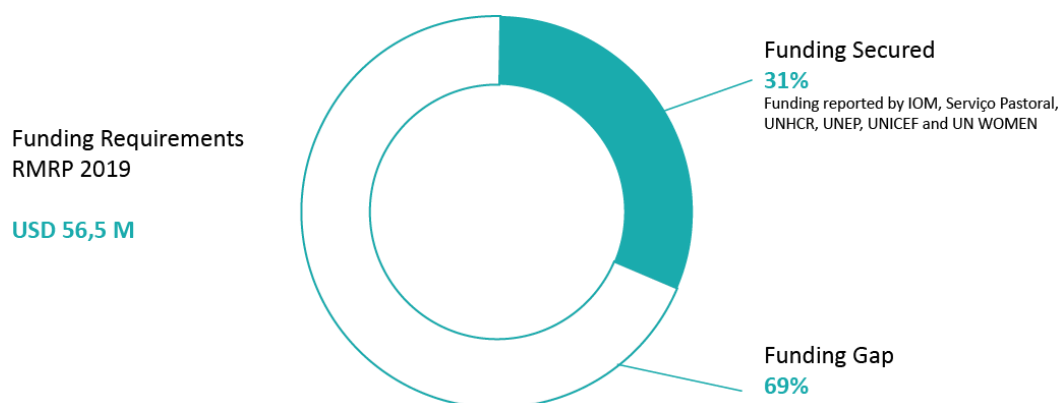
Situation Report – June 2019



**World Refugee Day:** More than 10 thousand people were reached through World Refugee Day activities in Brazil, both host community members and persons of concern. Nineteen activities were held throughout the country in 6 cities. UN agencies, Federa, State and Municipal Government actors, NGOs and private companies were involve in the commemoration of the 2019 World Refugee Day.

**Expansion of Operação Acolhida in Manaus:** UN Agencies and the coordination of Operação Acolhida carried out technical visits to assess potential spaces for the Documentation Centre, Secured Sleeping Area and Operação Acolhida Headquarters. Architects from UN agencies and the technical team from the Brazilian Armed Forces designed the structure of the operation, which was presented to general coordination of Operação Acolhida on 6 June.

KEY FIGURES



Official documentation figures have not been updated since April. The last available official figures are:

- a cumulative number of **refugees/asylum seekers**: 99,858 as of 30 April.
- a cumulative number of **temporary residents**: 68,499 as of 30 April.

This month, there was an estimated daily average of 545 entries and 84 exits through the Pacaraima border, with a peak of 717 persons entering on 14 June and only 120 persons entering on 17 June.

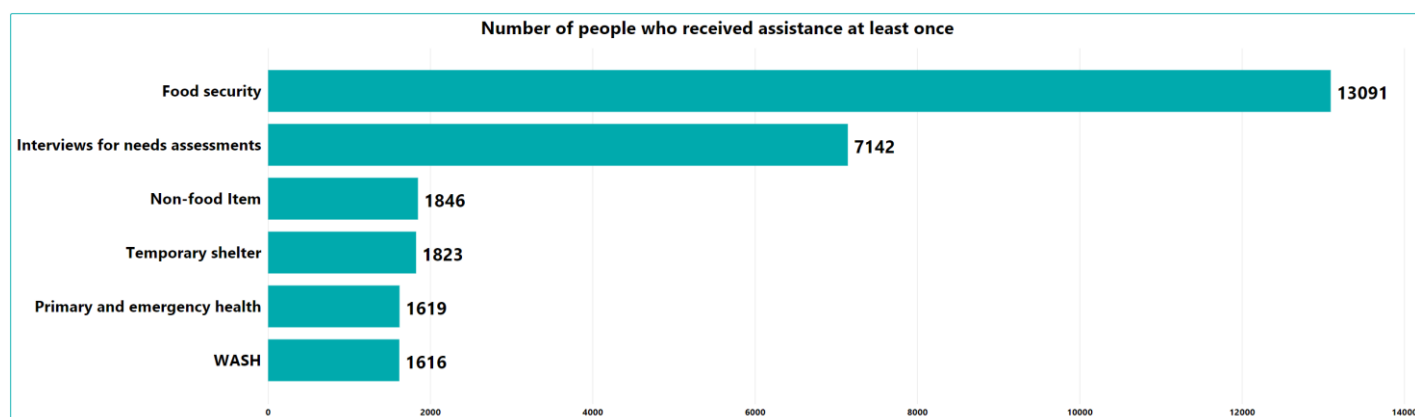
OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- **Representative of Casa Civil visits Roraima:** On 6 June, José Barreto, the newly appointed *Sub-Chefe de Monitoramento e Articulação*, head of the section of Casa Civil that coordinates the Federal Response for Venezuelans, visited Roraima to familiarize himself with *Operação Acolhida*. Sr. Barreto also met with UN representatives and the General from the Brazilian Army who heads the Ministry of Defence’s role in coordinating the logistics of the response, to discuss upcoming changes related to the expansion to Manaus.
- **Brazilian Army reinforces security measures in the streets of Pacaraima:** The reopening of the border of Santa Elena de Uairén and the flow of people crossing from the neighboring country through Pacaraima resuming, triggered increased security measures from the Brazilian Army.
- **CONARE recognizes 'generalized threat to human rights' in Venezuela to expedite analysis of asylum claims:** Brazil has recognized Venezuela as a country with a "serious and widespread threat to human rights," the coordinator of the National Committee for Refugees (CONARE), said on Wednesday 19 June. The measure adopted last week aims to expedite the analysis of asylum claims from Venezuelans in Brazil. Laferté explains that the measure removes the subjective criterion from the analysis of the requirements and that CONARE took the decision based on the escalation of the political crisis between the current and opposition regimes in Venezuela.

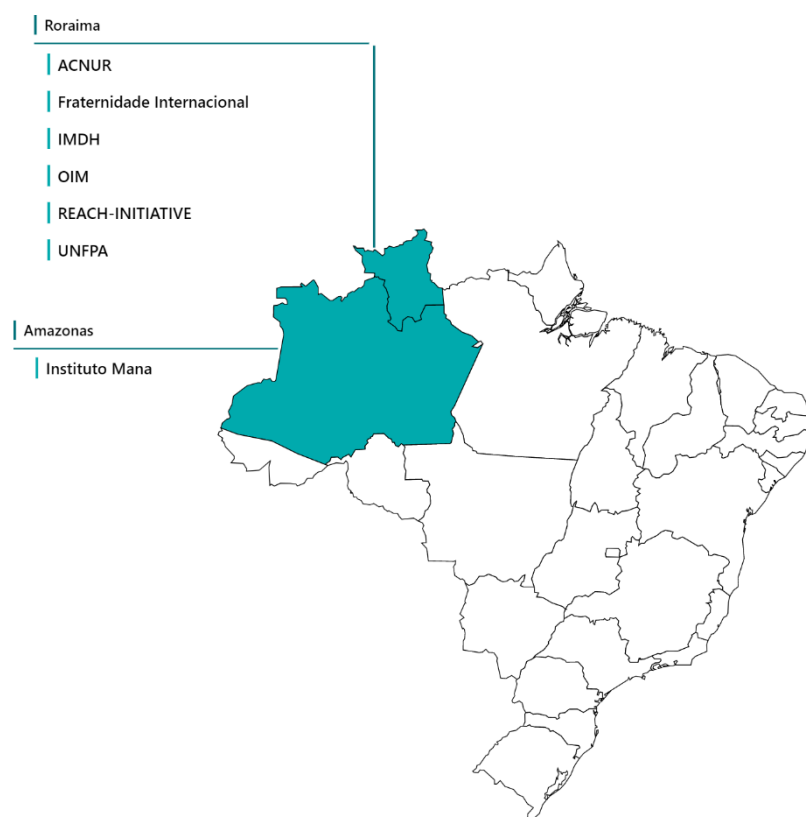
## RESPONSE OVERVIEW

### Area of Intervention 1: Direct Emergency Assistance

In Brazil, UN Agencies and civil society organizations are working to meet the most basic needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants arriving in the north of Brazil. Key areas of intervention for the Brazilian context are temporary emergency shelter, provision of food and non-food items and health interventions. In addition, needs assessments are conducted.



#### 1 Actors by department who reported through activity.info in June

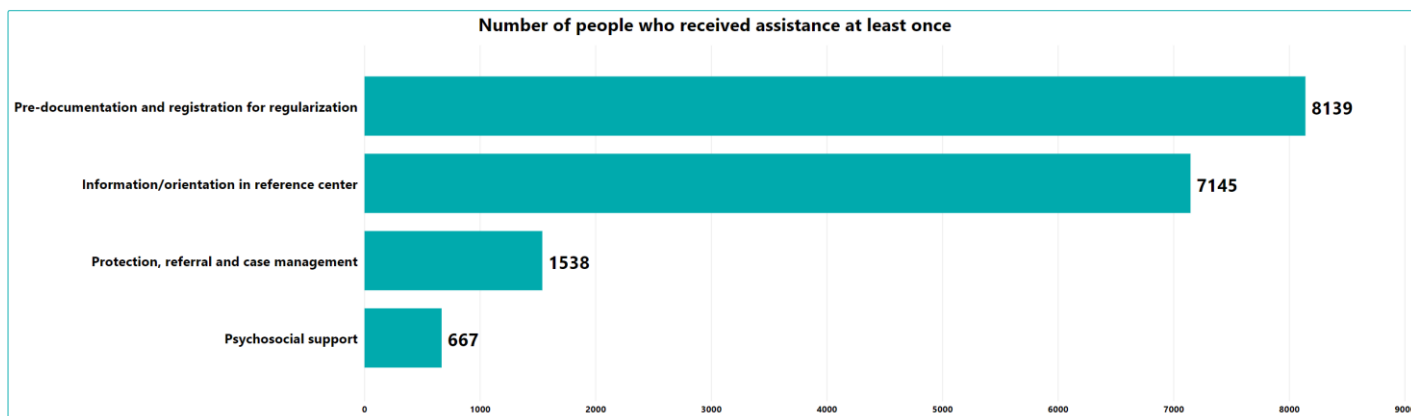


Since last year, as the number of Venezuelans entering the country grew, refugees and migrants began occupying abandoned public buildings in Roraima, a phenomenon that is now expanding. With shelter capacity at a maximum, it is an alternative to living on the streets in the middle of the rainy season. It is estimated that almost 40,000 Venezuelans live in Boa Vista, which corresponds to more than 10% of the city's 375,000 inhabitants. In cooperation with the Brazilian army, two assessments of Venezuelans sleeping in the streets or occupying private or public buildings in Boa Vista were conducted last month. The latest round identified a total of 3,259 Venezuelans, including 1,335 men, 910 women and 104 minors. In Pacaraima, a total of 521 people including 336 men, 101 women and 84 minors were identified.

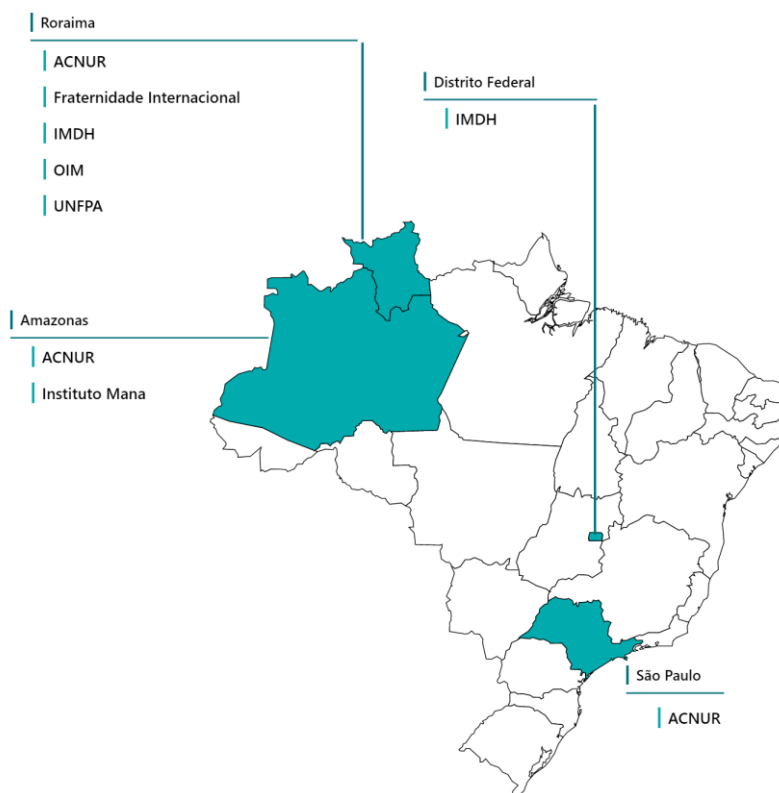
The handover of three shelters managed by the Brazilian Armed Forces to a UN Agency through implementing partners began. The transition period for the handover of Santa Tereza shelter from the military to partners began on 17 June. Partners informed that they will take over the management of Latife Salomao and BV8 shelters on 22 July, once the recruitment process for staff is completed.

## Area of Intervention 2: Protection

In Brazil, UN Agencies and civil society organizations provide protection to Venezuelan refugees and migrants through documentation assistance, registration, case management, protection referrals and tailored response for populations with specific needs such as LGBTI, children, persons with disabilities, persons at risk of SGBV, pregnant women and indigenous people.



### 2. Actors by department who reported through activity.info in June



## Spotlight on indigenous communities

The indigenous response has been one of the greatest challenges in the response for Venezuelans since the beginning of the emergency. These challenges are related to the continuous influx to other states in the north of Brazil and the lack of adequate responses from the local authorities outside Roraima". The current situation in the indigenous refugee situation are also related to the Waraos' new influx to at least three new states in Brazil (Ceará, Piauí and Maranhão) which represents the extension of the continuous pendular movement to this new region consequence of the lack of adequate structures in the previous states (Amazonas and Pará).

During this year, the migratory flow of indigenous people increased. Members of the Warao people (originally from the Orinoco Delta), Eñepa people (from Bolívar State) and the Pemon People (who have a presence both in Brazil and in Venezuela) are all indigenous refugees now present in Brazil. Indigenous people are leaving their territory partly because of the generalized crisis that is occurring in the country, but more so because of the presence of external actors to their communities, who are imposing territorial and population controls, affecting the security and autonomy of their peoples. The protection risks for indigenous people who have crossed the border have to do not only with guaranteeing their physical survival, but also with their cultural and ethnic survival.

The expansion of shelter solutions for indigenous people continues to be a priority in order to reduce the deaths, protection risks, guarantee their continuity as a group, strengthen autonomous processes and ensure cultural survival. As such, it is necessary to continue working with traditional authorities to strengthen their participation in decision-making related to their organization process. Child protection is one of the biggest challenges as, although illegal throughout Brazil, some parents use children to help beg on the streets. The challenges for the new host communities receiving these influxes is to maintain public order while also guaranteeing respect for the culture.



Photo Credit: UNHCR

The constant movements among other Brazil states represents the need of more engagement of the Federal Government on this issue to address adequately the emergency responses as well as to include Federal indigenous organization in the discussion on how to respond to this new influx in the country.

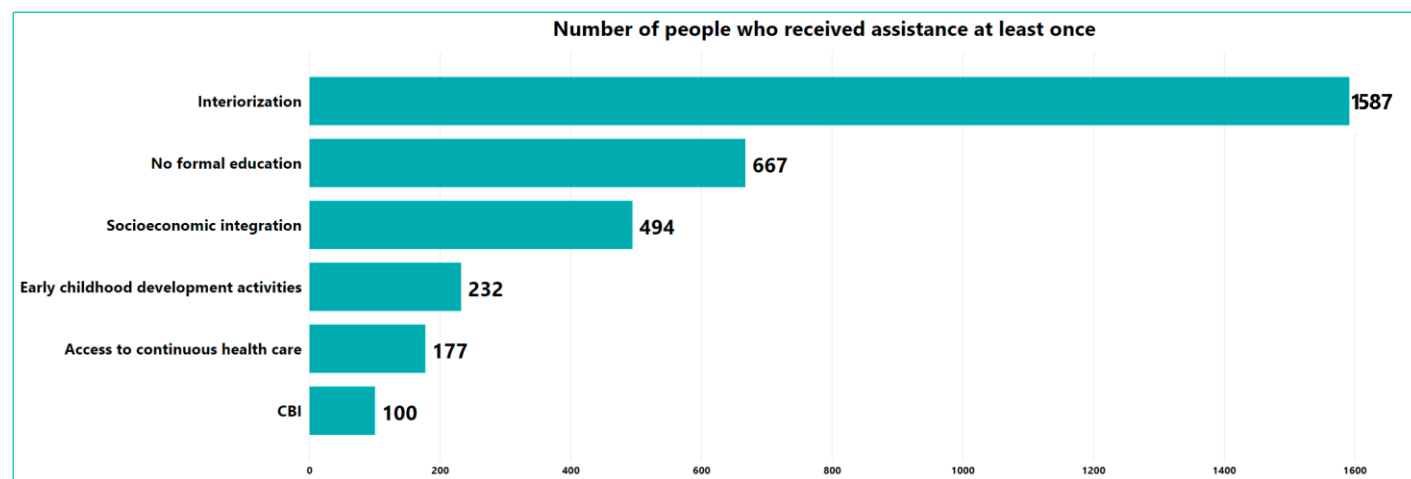
Finally, with an improved understanding of situation of indigenous people from Venezuela, the strategies for communicating with the communities should be strengthened, specifically through i) a campaign against xenophobia given the lack of knowledge and stereotypes about them, ii) information materials in the proper

language and; iii) the design of a plan of action against cases of risks or violation of rights and protocols of differentiated attention (health, education, assistance), as well as protocols of consultation with the indigenous authorities, from an intercultural perspective.

UN agencies are supporting the local, state and federal government in implementing a differentiated approach with the indigenous communities in Brazil to harmonize and to guarantee the adequate response and support to the new states that have received the spontaneous influx.

## Area of Intervention 3: Socio-Economic and Cultural Integration

In Brazil, UN Agencies and civil society organizations promote socio-economic and cultural integration through voluntary relocation, labour insertion, training, Portuguese language classes and school enrolment, as well cash-based interventions.



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### 3. Actors by department who reported through activity.info in June



The head of the Office of the Chief of Staff (Casa Civil), signed a technical cooperation agreement with several airlines on 25 June to intensify the internal relocation of Venezuelans. The agreement was signed in conjunction with Infraero, Inframerica, the Brazilian Association of Airline Companies and representatives of Brazilian Airlines. Up to 50 flight tickets per week will be provided free of charge to Venezuelans living in Roraima.

In June, a total of 1,587 Venezuelan refugees and migrants were voluntarily relocated to other parts of Brazil. Among these, 729 flew on military planes, 370

received flight tickets on commercial airlines provided by partners and an additional 488 were supported by a wide range of civil society organisations. Some 10,000 Venezuelans have been relocated since the beginning of the operation last year, both under the official government process and through independent organizations.

### Spotlight on women's socioeconomic integration, challenges and strategies

Humanitarian contexts have differentiated effects on women and men in relation to access to resources, goods and opportunities. While the socioeconomic integration of migrants and refugees represents a challenge because of xenophobia, language barriers, the limited or lack of employers' knowledge on their rights, increased vulnerabilities to bullying, harassment and conditions analogous to slavery, limited capacity of the local market to absorb labour, among others, being a migrant or refugee woman brings other sorts of obstacles. Cultural and gender norms impose roles and responsibilities on women, which end up confining them to domestic duties or relegating them to less valuable jobs in the labour market or informal jobs. Traditional gender roles attribute responsibilities to women such as caring for people with a higher degree of dependency (children, the elderly, people with disabilities or health problems), with little or no support in the co-responsibility of partners. Venezuelan women who are the heads of single-parent families experience increased challenges to socioeconomic integration, particularly because they cannot count on a support network or adequate structure from the public and private sectors. Another issue of concern is the fact that situations of high stress can instigate violence and vulnerability to gender-based violence increases. The relocation (*interiorização*) process also reflects these difficulties. Often, men are traveling on to other states while women stay in Roraima taking care of dependents. The modality of relocation through job vacancies tends to favor men: only 10% of relocation with guaranteed jobs are assigned to women, according to data from the Armed Forces and UN agencies. In addition, one-third of the 60% of unemployed Venezuelan migrant and refugee in Brazil are women.

Several common need related to economic empowerment have been identified in Roraima. Women that are caregivers often seek support for entrepreneurship opportunities, allowing them to work near those in their care. Group initiatives are being conducted within shelters in safe spaces, where women support each other. Among women who will soon be relocated through the family reunification modality, one of the challenges is to have daycare support while acquiring entrepreneurship skills to apply in the destination cities. Those who are not the primary caregivers of a person often ask for support to look for employment opportunities. Indigenous women often request support for the production and sales of their crafts. Women that are shelterless usually prefer alternatives that offer a quick sale possibility, since the income can be immediately invested in basic items. Sheltered women usually request professional qualification. The main demands that are being met are for professional qualification courses targeting the market sectors that are employing more migrants and refugees, Portuguese classes, curriculum vitae writing and job matching with companies.

At the same time that crises can increase vulnerabilities and risk exposure, they represent possibilities of change. Through women's empowerment hubs, partners are facilitating access to opportunities, resources and decision-making power, combined with information on women's human rights and access to justice. Improving women's economic empowerment is also a measure of protection, including through decreased exposure to sexual exploitation, abuse and trafficking. In addition, it helps to build women's agency and participation in public life and enhance the economic, physical and psychological well-being of individuals, families and communities. Over time, well-planned livelihoods interventions can also contribute to changing cultural and gender norms to increase gender equality.



To overcome these challenges, it is necessary to continue strengthening the capacity of the host government and local partners for gender equality and the empowerment of women; improve the structure of the women’s empowerment hub activities and enhance livelihoods initiatives; develop initiatives for men to prevent tensions due to changes in gender dynamics and encourage positive expressions of masculinities; raise awareness amongst the private sector for women’s employment; leverage women’s leadership and promote co-existence and cultural exchanges. It is also essential to produce disaggregated data and conduct livelihoods studies with a gender perspective to inform strategies and programmes. The socio-economic integration of migrant and refugee women depends on an integrated response involving authorities, partners from the international community, private entities and civil society, seeking to provide conditions, opportunities and durable solutions that will benefit not only migrant and refugee women, but also host women and improve community life.



Photo Credit: UN Women/Felipe Abreu

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#### Area of Intervention 4: Strengthening the capacity of host government

In Brazil, UN Agencies and civil society organizations carry out awareness raising, capacity building and advocacy to improve the quality of response for Venezuelans refugees and migrants, to ensure their rights are respected and to promote their access to services and opportunities, with particular attention to specific needs populations.

4 Actors by department who reported through activity.info in June.



Between 5 and 17 June, teams visited six municipalities in the state of Roraima to conduct trainings on identification and prevention of human exploitation and labour exploitation for local officials and Catholic communities partners, who provide support to refugees and migrants. A total of 50 people participated.

A lecture on “Protection of refugees in urban contexts” was given to 150 persons, including armed forces members and civilians, at the Southeast military command, in Sao Paulo. The lecture included the XI Defence Panel, which is an academic project of the Army on the topic of “International Migration: resulting imbalances, humanitarian aspects, threats and opportunities in Brazil”.

On 12 June, in Boa Vista, the Federal University of Roraima and the Catholic University of Santos held the fourth edition of the Course on International

Refugee Law. The audience was composed of a total of 80 people including professors, students, and humanitarian workers, including R4V partners.

On 25 June, in the city of Curitiba, platform partners, together with the State Government of Paraná, promoted a roundtable discussion at the Centre for Information for Refugees, Migrants and Stateless Persons (CEIM), a public service run by the State Government. More than 35 people participated with the goal to discuss best practices and improve better services to the city's migrant population. Due to its dynamic economy and good living standards, Curitiba has been an important city of reception for Venezuelans under the voluntary relocation strategy.

On 25 June, during the National Immigrant Day in Brazil, the Municipality of Belem and UN organizations organized a Seminar on Migration for over 200 public servants from the Municipal Secretaries of Education, Health and Social Assistance. Each UN agency conducted a presentation on their mandate, the Venezuela situation and the rights and duties of refugees and migrants, as well as rights of children. 300 copies of the publications "*Protegendo Refugiados no Brasil*" and "*7 Mitos*" were distributed.

On 25-26 June, in Rio Grande do Sul State, UN agencies supported an induction training of 500 Army officers, who will be deployed to Roraima (Boa Vista and Pacaraima) and Amazonas (Manaus) on 21 July for four months as part of *Operacao Acolhida*, the Brazilian Government's response for Venezuelans. The officers were introduced to core concepts and principles of International Refugee Law, as well as PSEA and key protection concerns in the context of the VenSit response. They also learned key elements of *Operação Acolhida*, including the standard operation procedures on reception at the border, shelter management and the relocation programme. The training ended with a simulation organized by the Army of possible situations the officers will be faced with.

On 28 June, UN agencies in Manaus conducted a training "Working with LGBT people in the context of forced displacement" in celebration of international LGBT pride day. The training took place in the auditorium of the Secretary of State for Social Assistance (SEAS) and approximately 30 people participated, among them representatives of different civil society organizations and government offices.

On 28 June, UN agencies, in a joint cooperation, provided a PSEA training for 18 security guards who will be taking over the security of the two shelters in Pacaraima. The training aims to increase knowledge of UN policies on sexual exploitation and abuse, including prohibited behavior and the consequences and impact of sexual misconduct.

UN agencies supported the organisation of a Seminar on Public Policies for 'Women in Countryside, City, Forest and Water' (mulheres da cidade, do campo, da floresta e das águas) on 27 and 28 June in Boa Vista, Roraima State. 245 people participated on panels that discussed violence against women, women's health and women's leadership and empowerment, including public servants (Prosecution Office, Medical-Legal Institute, Civil Police, State Secretariat of Labour and Social Welfare), Civil Society actors (doctors, professor, scholar) and state congresswomen. The theme of migration and refuge was also incorporated in the seminar and the partners shared international experiences on public policies for the economic autonomy of migrant and refugee women. The Seminar aimed to sensitize different actors in order to build the Roraima state plan on women's policies.



## COORDINATION

**Information Management WG** On 3 June, the monthly Information Management WG meeting was held in Brasilia with the participation of 13 partners. Among the key points addressed were the progress made in terms of reporting against the RMRP targets, the mid-year review, the creation of common products and databases on refugees, and the use of the same population figures. Every month, the IM team tries to reach and support additional partners working outside Brasilia with on-line or presencial trainings. On 13 June, a training on activity info, the evaluation and monitoring tool of the platform, was held in São Paulo.

**Protection WG** On 19 June, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the National Protection Working Group took place, attended by UNHCR, UNFPA, OIM, IMDH and SJMR. UN Women and Caritas Rio participated remotely. OIM, SJMR and UNFPA did a presentation on protection activities they carry out in Brazil. In addition to this, the Terms of Reference of the National Protection Working Group were discussed, reviewed and approved. The group debated a tentative plan of activities and priorities. It was decided that a subgroup on SGBV would be created and coordinated by UNFPA. Lastly, the group decided to create an assessment about protection risks of Venezuelans, which is to be carried out by implementing and operational partners in cities that are part of the Interiorization program.

**Communication WG** The last steps of the national anti-xenophobia campaign were discussed with the advertising agency before production. During the same month, a strategy was devised among partners to give more visibility to the platform while aligning its efforts with the communication plan of the Operação Acolhida. It includes the sharing of data and information material.

## PLATFORM PARTNERS

| ADRA- Adventist Development and Relief Agency | Antonio Vieira Association - Jesuits of Brazil | ASBRAD Brazilian Association for the Defense of Women, Children and Youth | Caritas Brasileira | Caritas Rio de Janeiro | Caritas São Paulo | CMDH Roraima Centre for Migration and Human Rights | Félix Guattari Institute | IMDH Institute for Migration and Human Rights | IOM | Pastoral Service of Migrants | SEFRAS Franciscan Solidarity Association | SOS Children's Villages of Brazil | UNAIDS | UNDP | UNEP | UNESCO | UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF | UNODC | UNWOMEN

## CONTRIBUTIONS

*Partners in the response are very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, contributing to their activities with un-earmarked and earmarked funds.*

Austria | Brazil | CERF | Canada | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Holy See | Italy | Ireland | Japan | Luxembourg | Netherlands | New Zealand | Norway | Private donors | Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America

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