

BRAZIL

Situation Report – July 2019



Recognition of Refugees :

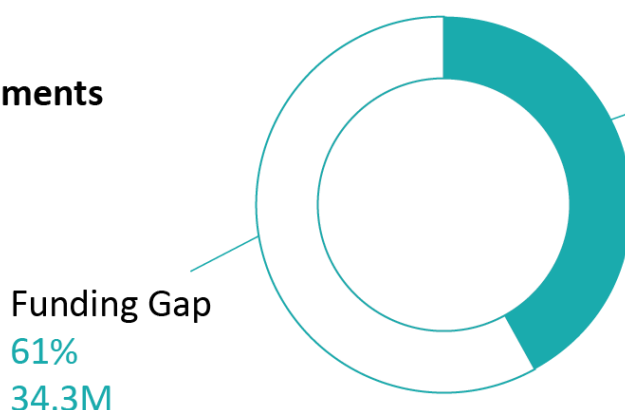
On 24 July, in the CONARE’s 141st Plenary meeting whose highlight was the recognition of 174 nationals from Venezuela as refugees applying the broader refugee criteria (Art. 1, III of Law 9474/1997), according to the Cartagena Definition. Two Venezuelans were also recognized by the 1951 definition.

World Day against Trafficking in Persons :

World day celebrated in Brazil promoted several activities to raise awareness on the reality of trafficking in persons and “reaffirm our commitment to stop criminals from ruthlessly exploiting people for profit and to help victims to rebuild their lives” *UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.*

KEY FIGURES

Funding Requirements
RMRP 2019
USD 56.5 M



Funding Secured*
39%
22.2M

*Paid Contributions reported by IOM, Serviço Pastoral, UNHCR, UNEP, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO

Official documentation figures have now been updated up to end of May as follows:

- a cumulative number of **refugees/asylum seekers**: 103,697
- a cumulative number of **temporary residents**: 74,860

The population movements at the border remained approximately the same compared to last month. In July, there was an estimated daily average of 524 entries and 93 exits in Pacaraima, with a peak of 750 persons entering on 19 July and only 158 persons entering on 28 July.

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Expansion of the Operação Acolhida to Manaus: In July, partners participated in the assessment, design and restructuring of the sites selected for the documentation center, information post at the local bus station with distribution, storage and sheltering services and transit center (interiorization hub) to support logistically the movement from the state of Roraima of the internal relocation operation. An office space for UN Agencies and the Armed Forces was established. On 5 July, the first general coordination meeting took place in Manaus, with the presence of UN agencies, civil society organizations, local government and the coordination of Operação Acolhida. Two working groups including protection and integration were already created. At the bus station information materials on rights and food are provided. During the month, repairs to a bathroom, shower and laundry area as well as refurbishing has been carried out by the humanitarian communities already present in the city.

Ministry of Justice Ordinance nº 666: On 26 July, the Official Gazette of Brazil published a new Ordinance that provides for the impediment of entry, repatriation and summary deportation of a dangerous people or who has committed an act contrary to the principles and objectives set forth in the Federal Constitution. People included in this article may not enter the country and are subject to repatriation and summary deportation, including refugees that are deemed dangerous to the security of Brazil. The ordinance says though that no one shall be barred from entering the country, repatriated or summarily deported for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a social group or political opinion and that the entry into the country shall not be prevented or subjected to repatriation or summary deportation to a person persecuted abroad for a purely political or opinion crime.

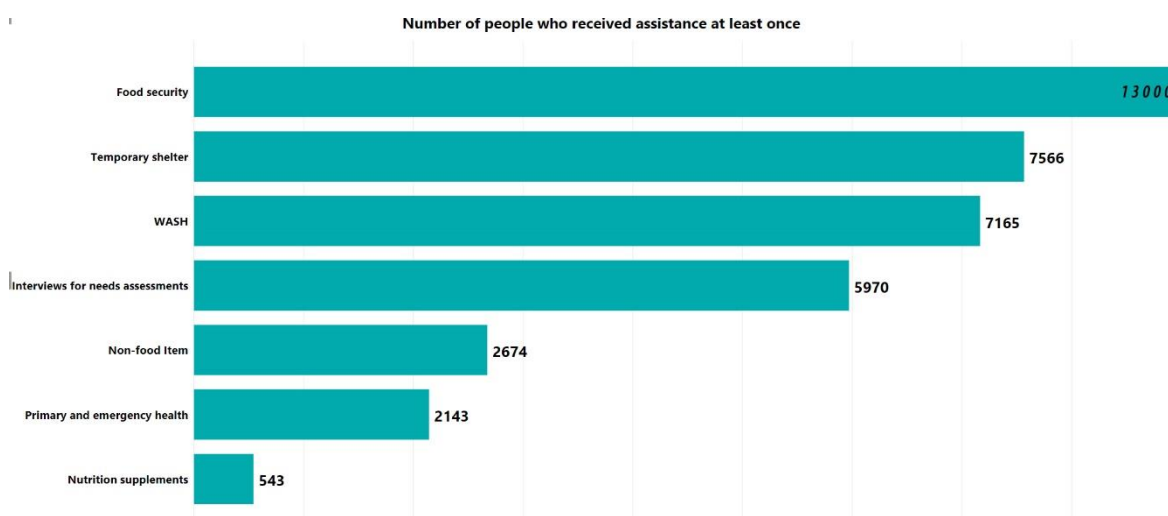
SISCONARE online tool roll-out: The rollout of the new online documentation platform, SISCONARE, started in July 2019. Humanitarian organizations will help Venezuelans asylum-seekers with pre-documentation assistance transitioning from paper to the new online model. Paper claims will be accepted until 15 September, and after that Sisconare – the new online tool to submit asylum seekers application - will be the only tool available to claim asylum (except for in the border city of Pacaraima, Roraima). The humanitarian community will remain vigilant to the new developments and the mandated agency will continue its strong capacity building and advocacy role.

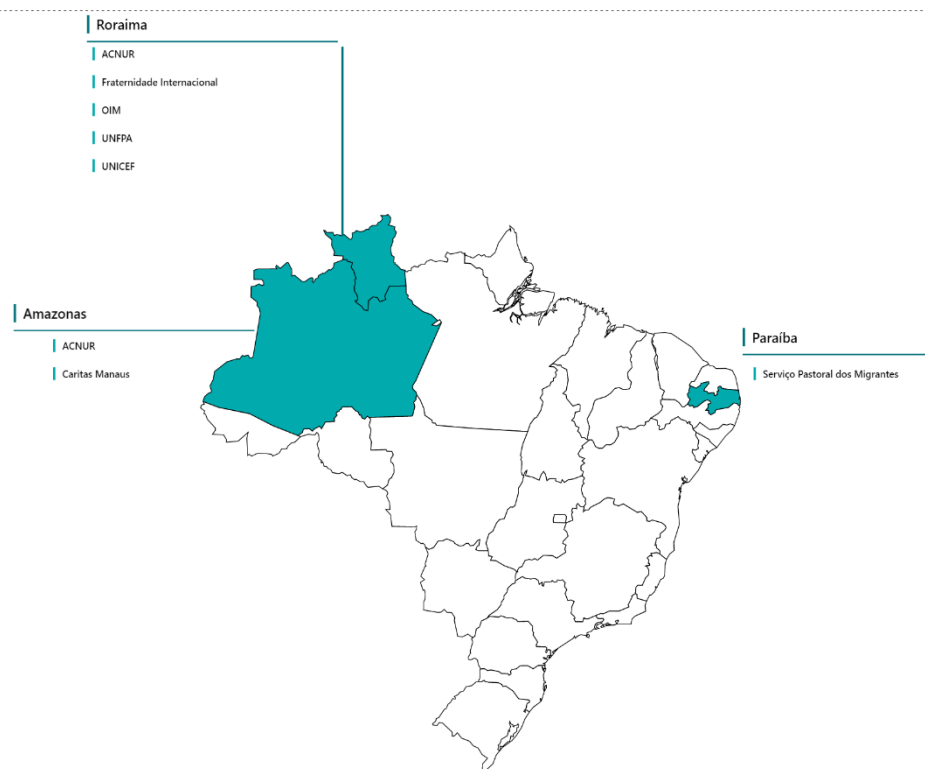
In July, in Manaus and Belem, CONARE and several officials from the National Committee for Refugees (CONARE) and several government bodies such as the State Secretary of Justice, Human Rights and Citizenship (SEJUSC) organized a training for 30 humanitarian civil society actors, supported by the UN on the new system. Challenges like lack of infrastructure, personnel and capacity of governmental actors in Belém represent obstacle to roll-it out in the short run and, in turn, this means obstacles for asylum seekers population to access their rights, especially for the indigenous; discussions are ongoing about new protection streams with the purpose of guaranteeing the right to asylum for the Warao population, in light of their specific needs and vulnerabilities.

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 July*

Main activities reported in July

In the first week of July, the replacement of tents with climate-modified Refugees Housing Units for all shelters in Boa Vista was finalized, 215 RHUs replaced old tents. The RHUs offer improved protection from heavy rains and are more durable than the tents initially installed. There are currently approximately 6,576 Venezuelans living in 13 shelters managed by the humanitarian community with the support of the Brazilian Armed Forces in the border

state of Roraima, while more than 10,000 refugees and migrants have benefitted from the temporary emergency accommodation since March of 2018. All of them had access to basic services including safe water.

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 3,631 Venezuelans including 1,168 minors, an increase of 300 per cent compared to January. In Pacaraima, there was an estimated 642 Venezuelans, including 102 minors. These assessments are widely shared with partners to guide the response. Data was collected to prepare site profiles, which provide a consolidated overview of population statistical data, needs in life-saving sectors, and information on activities and gaps. About 950 refugees and migrants per night benefited from the secured sleeping area improved last month in the surrounding of the bus station in Boa Vista to alleviate the impact of the rain. This space has allowed refugees and migrants to pitch their tents in a secured area, with access to basic hygiene facilities

Food distribution reached an estimated some 13,000 refugees and migrants, including those living in the streets (3,577 people) in indigenous communities (2,511 people) or in precarious accommodations through Roraima State (food basket of 7,388 people) . Meals, food baskets and parcels containing basic items were distributed throughout the month. In addition, 543 children from 6 to 59 months received nutrition supplementation to prevent undernutrition.

In addition, 180 children accessed the minimum set of vaccines required by Brazilian standards and a total of 1,255 children and teenagers received primary healthcare.

The Warao indigenous community is in pendular movement and represents the majority of the Venezuelans indigenous population on the move in Brazil. There are approximately 4,654 Venezuelan indigenous (Warao, Pemón, Eñepa), mainly in the Northern part of Brazil. Waraos arrived in Manaus and Boa Vista since the beginning of the outflow in 2017 and have been experiencing health issues that deteriorated recently; the international and national communities and local government are now working on targeted actions to respond to the most immediate needs but also to find the most appropriate solution for them in the short and middle term. Since early July, the Humanitarian community is working with the Municipal Health Secretariat in Manaus to improve health outcomes in shelters for indigenous Venezuelans, who are particularly prone to the spread of infectious diseases. As part of an on-going dialogue to design a tailored health strategy, a vaccination campaign for Varicella and Tuberculosis was carried out in the first week of July and Focus Group Discussions have been carried out to inform the design of future interventions. In addition, an

awareness raising campaign was carried out, highlighting the importance of pursuing medical treatment and how to access the local Basic Health Unit (UBS). Partners donated cleaning products and utensils to the indigenous shelter in Manaus to carry out a cleaning activity to avoid and further prevent the spread of infectious diseases. And finally, partners coordinated a meeting with the Health secretariats and the coordination of shelters with the objective to set priority health activities. As result of the meeting, a Nutritional Evaluation will be realized next month focusing not only on children but also on adults.

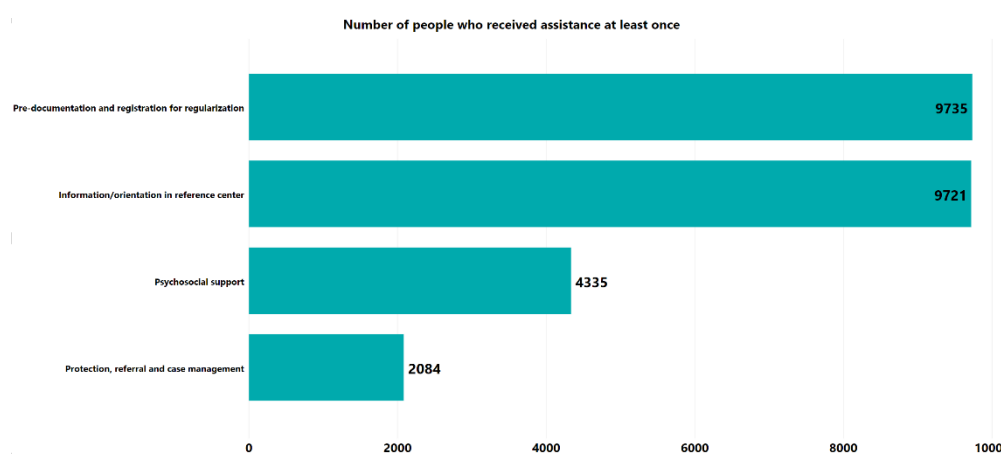
In July, partners in Roraima developed actions to promote access to sexual and reproductive health (SSH) basic services and assistance, which are particularly scarce in context of humanitarian crises increasing the vulnerability of pregnant women. Adolescents, women and LGBTI people face other threats and need support to ensure their rights are protected, including reproductive planning. However, during crises, SSR supplies are often scarce, putting pregnant women at greater risk and leaving other women subject to unwanted pregnancies and possible health consequences for those who undergo unsafe abortions. To address the scarcity of SSH supplies, a partnership was established with SEMINA, a company specialized in reproductive health, family planning and breastfeeding, increasing the availability and delivery of condoms for Venezuelan women.

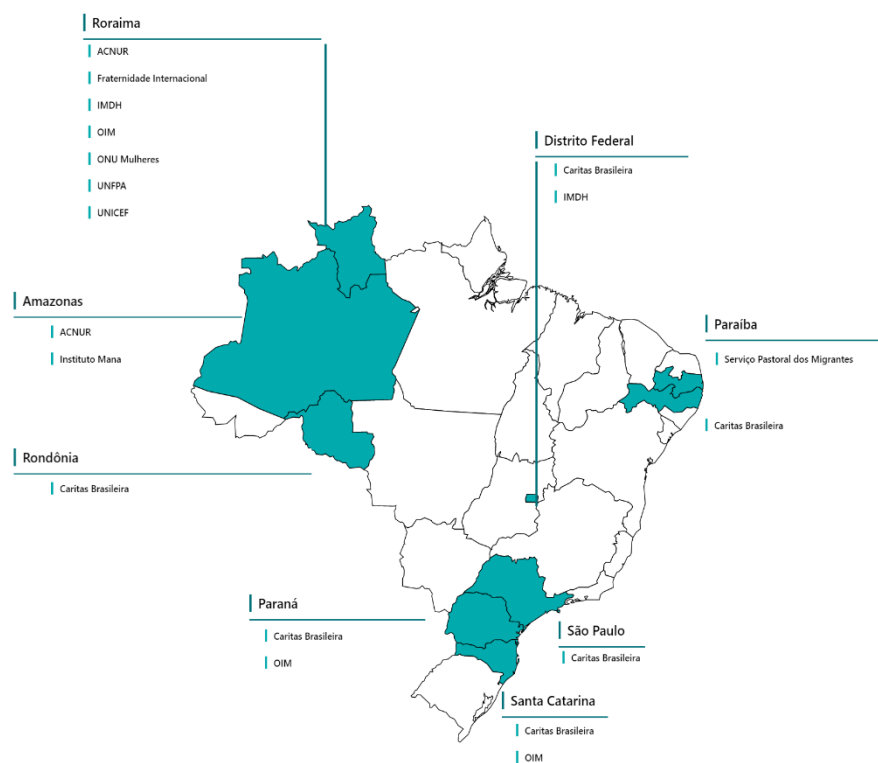
To promote sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), more than 3,568 male and female condoms and 1,200 lubricants were distributed, facilitating the right of refugees and migrants to access basic health items and to promote safe sex practices and prevent Sexual Transmitted Infections (STIs) in Boa Vista and Pacaraima.

In July, partners provided counselling and information materials on SSH, HIV, GBV, access to rights and services reaching 139 people in Boa Vista shelters and 305 in Pacaraima shelter. In Pacaraima, 892 individual consultations were performed at the Screening Center (Ptrig), and 590 were assisted in other vulnerable places, while in Boa Vista 556 people were assisted individually and 220 collectively.

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.





1. Actors by department who reported through activity.info in July

Main activities reported in July

In Brasilia, partners provided support to a ceremony organised by the Brazilian Ministry of Justice to commemorate the day against trafficking in persons. On this occasion, the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Labour signed an agreement to strengthen their cooperation. In Roraima and Manaus, partners distributed information materials during the entire week, exhibited movies followed by discussions with migrants on the subject, and organised seminars. In addition, a campaign on social

media, in partnership with the National Council of Justice, was organised to clarify myths commonly associated with TIP.

In 2019, partners have worked towards strengthening capacities of government and civil society on identification and assistance to victims of trafficking by continuously delivering training sessions to partners. A comparative study about modern slavery was conducted. In addition to distributing information material, partners also delivered sessions to migrants on how to prevent and seek assistance in case of exploration or abuse. Direct assistance is also provided to Venezuelans and Brazilians, who would like to voluntarily return to their country.

Highlight - Spaces of education, protection against violence and psychosocial support for migrant and refugee children and adolescents: an integrated approach.

Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) and Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) have been set up in various locations as strategic activities to the Venezuelan crisis in Brazil. The separated approaches, although complementary and adapted to the needs of educational care, psychosocial support and actions to protect children against all forms of violence, tended to prioritize activities towards young children over adolescents.

After a year of implementation and with the prospect of continued humanitarian intervention, partners assessed the need to strengthen and integrate these education and protection interventions in a more strategic manner. Therefore, CFSs and TLSs were restructured to offer a single integrated approach called Spaces for Education, Violence Protection and Psychosocial Support for Migrant and Refugee Children and Adolescents (EPAPs), with a multicultural and gender approach.

This integration aims to deliver a better-quality intervention, with activities appropriate for each age group, as well as maximizing the efficiency of available resources and promoting opportunities to strengthen local capacities related to education, child rights and protection. In this regard, each EPAP provides in a single space, safe and stimulating non-formal education as well as child protection activities (with specific focus to the different age groups), notably:

a) Development of education activities in support of the transition to the Brazilian education system for migrant and refugee children and adolescents, in a multicultural approach, in spaces located in shelters and outside them;



b) Development of psychosocial support activities so that migrant and refugee children and adolescents can benefit from:

- i) An enabling environment that facilitates, among children of all ages, emotional recovery and socialization through play, alongside cognitive strengthening and development activities, enhancing their social and life skills, thus improving their overall resilience.
- ii) Support for inclusion in the formal education system allowing children of all ages to learn and develop in schools in the host communities.

c) Development of activities to prevent and respond to violence, abuse and exploitation of children and adolescents inside and outside the shelters, including actions to monitor possible situations of unprotection, early identification, full support for victims, such as referral of cases to the local protection network; and

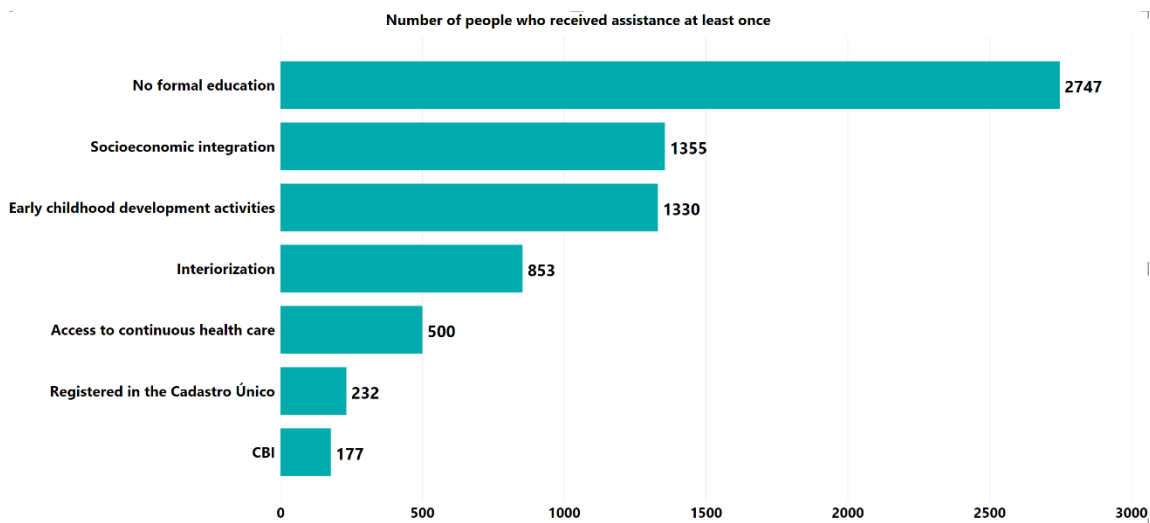
d) Development of specific activities around self-protection capacities of children and adolescents and information on available services to report and/or ask for help.

For the implementation of the integrated approach, partners designed and implemented a joint capacity building program, and provide continuous support to partners and local actors in education and protection of children and adolescents.

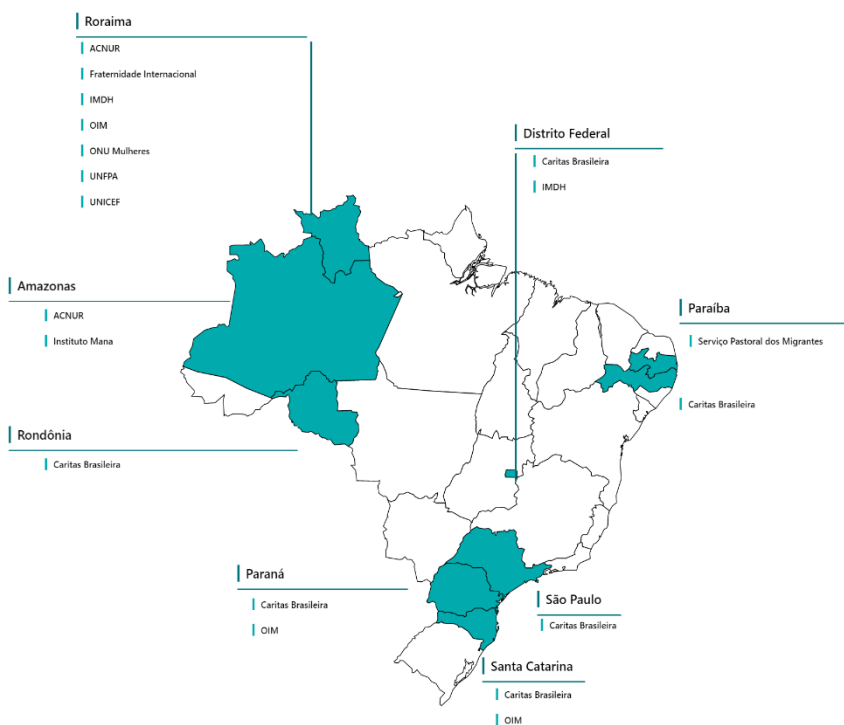
In July, 4,227 children (2,100 girls, 2,127 boys) benefited from psychosocial support, non-formal education and early childhood development activities through this intersectoral intervention in the State of Roraima

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.



3. Actors by department who reported through activity.info in July



Main activities reported in July

In July, a total of 853 Venezuelan refugees and migrants were voluntarily relocated to other parts of Brazil through family and social reunification (211) because they were matched either with employment (205) or to be received in shelters managed by civil society or municipalities (437). Among these, 548 flew on planes operated by the Brazilian Armed Forces and 305 received flight tickets on commercial airlines by partners. A total of 12,050 people have been relocate since

the beginning of the operation in April 2018.

Partners from civil society provided overall support to the interiorization operation. As part of the Pana programme, some 650 refugees and migrants were accommodated in rented houses in six different states, mostly in the South of the country and received core relief items such as food supply, hygiene kits, sanitary items, kitchen utensils and clothes. With the goal of increasing the self-reliance and integration of Venezuelans, the shelters offer comprehensive services such as psychological support, legal assistance and Portuguese classes.

As part of their efforts to mobilize the private sector in support of the socio-economic integration of refugees and migrants, partners organised the first Forum on Employment and Entrepreneurship on 2 July in Curitiba, a city, which received one of the largest numbers of relocated Venezuelans. The event provided an opportunity for policy makers and private companies to discuss the benefits that migrants and refugees can provide in terms of knowledge, expertise and diversity, and the best practices for private sector engagement. While companies can play a central role in assisting Venezuelans, most companies lack information and/or might be reluctant to hire them. To address this issue, a workshop was held for human resources professionals to debunk myths on refugees and migrants, design inclusive social responsibility policies and discuss hiring processes and labour legislation. Finally, the “Policy Guide on Entrepreneurship for Migrants and Refugees” was launched during this event. The guide comes in the form of policy options and possible measures and initiatives that can be adopted by government and other relevant stakeholders in host countries, depending on the local circumstances and needs. The event gathered a total of 84 participants including 14 representatives from the private sector and 19 public officials.

The same workshop on migrant labour was organized in Florianópolis, Santa Catarina State, on 25 July, gathering 40 participants. Others are planned in other cities until the end of the year.

On 26 July, a second edition of the *Forum for Employment and Entrepreneurship of Migrants and Refugees* in Manaus was conducted in partnership with the Global Compact Network Brazil. The forum was hosted by the Federation of Industries of the state of Amazonas (FIEAM). Over 100 people from government, civil society and business participated. The forum also launched the *Companies with Refugees Platform*, a digital platform providing guidelines on employability, entrepreneurship, education and awareness raising, in the Northern part of Brazil.

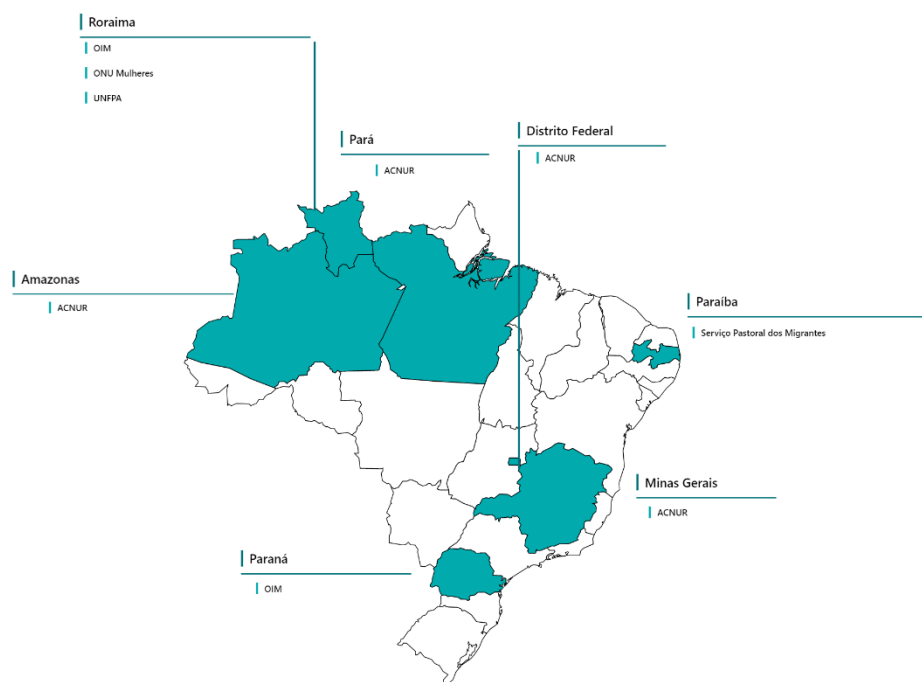
In addition, three missions were conducted by partners and representatives of the Brazilian Armed forces in Paraná, Santa Catarina and São Paulo states, to identify and engage directly with companies and other actors, which have potential interest in hiring migrants and refugees and supporting the relocation process.

In the state of Roraima, partners organised vocational trainings and Portuguese classes. Extracurricular activities were conducted at schools with a high percentage of refugee and migrant children to promote dialogue between Brazilians and Venezuelans and integration in the host communities. In Brasilia, the services provided by partners include counselling for refugees and migrants, individualized monitoring and referrals to job vacancies and vocational courses through conversation circles, information on revalidation of diplomas, awareness raising of potential employers and intermediation for job vacancies, and support for self-employed entrepreneurs. More than 100 people were reached in the capital. In Manaus, partners carried out an employability activity in one of the shelters for approximately 30 people, providing support with CV-writing and orientation for job placement. The activities are taking place monthly, in response to requests from the sheltered population and could be replicated in other shelters as a best practice.

Due to a growing need for inclusion and integration of women, partners increased their focus on women’s empowerment. Through the Women’s Empowerment HUB (WEB), and in partnership with the private sector, industry associations, and public organizations, partners organised lectures, courses and other activities to the benefit of approximately 91 women. These activities organised in Roraima State included financial education, small business entrepreneurship, cooking classes, courses on product development, pricing, entrepreneurship and basic concepts of economics.

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.



2 Actors by department who reported through activity.info in July.

Main activities reported in July

On 22-23 July, Prevention is Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (PSEA) focus group discussions and referrals were organized with civil society and volunteers. On 24-25 July, the PSEA Pilot Country Team has supported a two-day mission of a specialist with the participation of many actors in the humanitarian community and the Army in Boa Vista. This visit helped enhance humanitarian prevention of sexual and gender-based violence in the context of Roraima.

Through the voluntary relocation strategy, more than 12,000 Venezuelans moved to over 24 states and more than 150 cities. Some of these municipalities and states had no tradition of receiving migrants or refugees, and therefore no structured capacity to carry out specific integration and protection policies. Being a Federal State, these policies are mostly a responsibility of municipal governments, shared in some cases with state governments, and largely dependent on cooperation with civil society organizations. Hence, platform partners have engaged in building local capacities – elaborating SOPs, training civil and military servants, developing new policies, raising awareness on migration and asylum, informing on rights and duties of migrants and refugees under Brazilian and International Law, producing and distributing innovative information material, sharing best practices and building networks among local stakeholders – with the goal of enabling a more sustainable and successful integration for those who were already living in these cities, and preparing them for future arrivals. Over 1,000 people, including military staff, CSO representatives and migrants and refugees themselves, have already been reached by these activities. Several municipalities now have adequate information and trained staff to deal with the challenges of humanitarian response and integration. Most importantly, networks with different stakeholders are being formed throughout the country, which raises the resilience at the local level. Requests for trainings and information materials are continuously sent to partners.

On 11 July the Third Workshop on the Exchange of Experiences on Reception in the Framework of the Relocation Program took place, with the objective of sharing experiences and good practices among shelters and local actors in the state of Minas Gerais (the previous ones have been taken place in Rio de Janeiro y en Sao Paulo). The event was attended by 12 representatives of local and national government out of 42 people. As a result, a report containing guidelines and commitments aimed at strengthening the local reception, protection and integration network. The main recommendations: a) the creation of a WG on Education to advocate for simplified diploma validation procedures under the MIONas Gerais Federal and Sate public Universities. The group will liase also with other public and private stakeholders o develop joint initiatives to improve access to education for children, young people and adults; b) establishment of new referral pathways amon local stakeholders and the Under-Committee of Interiorization to increase support to the relocation program; c) possible inclusion of a broader spectrum of civil society partners supporting the relocation program in the platform `Companies with Refugees´ towards increasing the access of

Venezuelans to employment; d) local government mapping of local public services and support registration of Venezuelans aiming to start small business; e) liase with Industries associations, commerce and bars to increase support for job-placement; f) capacity building for local stakeholders on forced displacement related concept, GBV, working wioth LGBTI people, child prptection; g) civil society to continue engage with local networks and resources ro support the sustainability of the relocation program.

Following a request from the Social Assistance Foundation (FAS) in Curitiba, a public agency, partners trained 36 social workers from the municipality on 31 July. The training aimed at building the capacity of the city in migration management and dealt with Brazilian legislation.

Partners have helped build the capacity of the House of Brazilian Women, a government one-stop centre for women in situations of violence since its inauguration in December 2018. Their support includes continued training of the staff and the elaboration of innovative policies. In addition, a joint project on economic empowerment has been planned. During a meeting held in July in the House of Brazilian Women, partners, together with 25 representatives of public agencies and civil society organisations, drafted recommendations, which will serve as a basis for the formulation of State policies for women in Roraima. Partners highlighted the relevance of including the specific needs of migrant and refugee women.

Through operational and technical advice (registration form, identification of vulnerabilities and specific protection needs) partners supported the registration of Waraos in Belem, Para State, to enable their subscription to public policies benefits through *Cadastro Único* (a database system to allow people's access to public services). The Registration exercise continued in all shelters and hotels of Belem during the month of July.

COORDINATION

Coordination WG The next steps for the revision of the RMRP were presented and widely discussed with partners. New terms of reference for the platform were discussed for approval. Their main objective is to strengthen the cooperation between the plattform and the existing mechanism structure. To address the increasing needs for socio-economic integration of Venezuelans, a new working group was announced.

Information Management WG Among the key points addressed, is the progress made in terms of reporting against the RMRP targets, the creation of common products and databases on refugees, and the use of the consistent population figures. Sectors and 3W's were discussed in line with the revision of RMRP.

Protection WG The National Protection Working Group met on 31 July and defined to prioritize the following activities: 1) Creation of an Interagency Protection Network, coordinating focal points of all members accordingly to different sector of protection concern; 2) Develop the SGBV task force, to be coordinated by the UNFPA; 3) Support in field coordination, with actions in front of training; flow of information; and policy articulation.

Communication WG The last steps of the national anti-xenophobia campaign were discussed with the advertising agency before production. The Brazilian section of the R4V website was launched. It contains a wide range of information such as population figures, needs assessments and background information. Many Brazilian institutions already showed interest in publishing some research documents there.

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 | Cáritas Brasileira | Cáritas Rio de Janeiro | Cáritas 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

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