



UNHCR and partner organizations strengthen refugee engagement through participatory assessments

During the month of October, UNHCR and partner organizations held a series of consultations with refugees in Brazil to better understand the challenges and problems faced by this population, as well as their capacities and ideas for solving them. In total, more than 118 sessions were held in eight different cities in Brazil.

These participatory assessments are held regularly by UNHCR and are part of its community-based protection strategy. However, due to the impact of COVID-19, UNHCR has stepped up its efforts to ensure greater reach among its population of concern. The results, which will be released after being validated with the consulted population itself, are the base for UNHCR's strategic planning process for 2021. It is also expected that this exercise will facilitate community organization processes, strengthening the capacity of refugees to develop their own action plans on matters affecting their lives, such as their security and access to rights, and supporting them to regain control over their lives.

These activities enabled strengthening the dialog with refugees from different backgrounds divided into representative focus groups of women, men, girls, boys and LGBTI persons. The process also involved host communities, public authorities, civil society, private business and other counterparts to help identifying challenges, resources and solutions.

In view of the significant presence of thousands of Venezuelans in Brazil since mid-2016, this year's consultations had an important focus on this nationality, with a special attention for indigenous and other at-risk populations. In the case of the population served by Operation Welcome, people consulted were the ones in the shelters of Roraima and Manaus, in spontaneous occupations in the cities of Boa Vista and Pacaraima and in rented residences in these cities.

These participatory assessments with refugees were preceded by an extensive analysis of available secondary data from UNHCR and other organizations, which allowed for the identification of strategic topics for discussion such as existing barriers in the access to protection, assistance, public services and local integration opportunities, as well as the challenges related to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

Due to the pandemic, some consultations took place remotely, while face-to-face conversations were conducted in observation of COVID-19 preventive measures, such as distance among participants, use of masks and spray alcohol.



Microcredit makes possible for refugees to expand businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic



Read more at: bit.ly/3kEbd7o

Access to financial services, and especially to microcredit, is an important mechanism to support trade, considering that most refugees and asylum seekers who wish to run their own business in Brazil are still unable to access significant bank loans. As a way of boosting the business of refugee entrepreneurs, UNHCR and Crédito Solidário signed an agreement which enables this financial institution to offer a specific credit line for refugees and migrants funded by Kiva, an international microcredit platform. This line of investments has a low cost expanding the scope of lending to this population.

Training and Reference Centre supports Venezuelans and Brazilians in Pacaraima



On 16 October, Operation Welcome, UNHCR and partner organizations inaugurated a Training and Reference Centre in Pacaraima (Roraima) to assist refugees and migrants from Venezuela accessing the labour market and attaining social and cultural integration in Brazil. The Centre, which offers professional training activities also to Brazilian residents of Pacaraima, was built with the combined efforts of Operation Welcome partner organizations and contributes to the federal government's internal reallocation strategy. Besides UNHCR, the facility was built by the Diocese of Roraima, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); Moreover, civil society organizations Brotherhood without Borders (*Fraternidade sem Fronteira*-FSF), Association International Service Volunteers (AVSI) and Fraternity - International Humanitarian Federation (FFHI), donated materials and equipment for this space.

Read more at: bit.ly/2TvSlvp

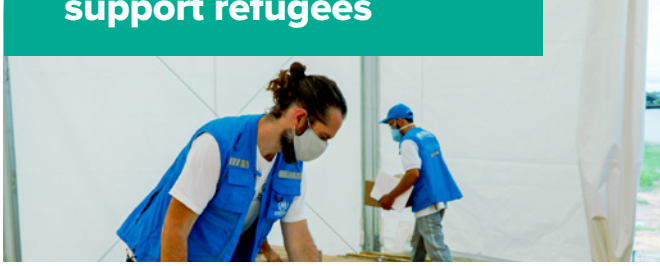


Venezuelan women complete professional training through the “Empowering Refugee Women” project in Roraima

On 13 October, 30 participants of the fifth edition of the “Empowering Refugee Women” project received their graduation certificates in Boa Vista. The students completed 80 hours of training imparted by the National Service for Commercial Learning (*Serviço Nacional de Aprendizagem Comercial*- SENAC) developing skills in areas such as customer service, sales, Brazilian legislation, Portuguese for business, entrepreneurship as well as socio-emotional competences. The project is an initiative of UNHCR, Global Compact Network Brazil and UN Women, and aims to promote the access of refugee women to the Brazilian labour market by training them and supporting their hiring by partner companies participating in Operation Welcome's strategy to relocate Venezuelan refugees and migrants to other Brazilian states. In this year's edition, “Empowering Refugee Women” had the support of the Association of International Service Volunteers (AVSI Brasil), which will provide temporary housing and the support of a social worker for all contracted women and their families, for a period of three months upon their internal relocation.

Read more at: bit.ly/3p3XwBF

15 million reais to support refugees



UNHCR and Operation Welcome - federal response to Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the north of the country - signed a partnership with Itaú bank, through the Todos Pela Saúde initiative, for an in-kind donation worth BRL 15.1 million to combat the novel corona virus pandemic. In June, Todos pela Saúde provided a first donation for the field hospital that Operation Welcome set up in Roraima, consisting of personal protective equipment, hospital equipment, medicines and other supplies, for a total amount of BRL 12.7 million. A second contribution worth BRL 2.4 million will provide hygiene and cleaning kits, mattresses, diapers and hammocks to refugees and migrants living in shelters of Boa Vista, Pacaraima and Manaus, contributing to prevent COVID-19 in these facilities and promoting the dignity and access to basic needs of this population.

Read more at: bit.ly/360jIDG

UNHCR congratulates Brazil on the presidency of its Executive Committee



UNHCR congratulates the country on the election of Ambassador Maria Nazareth Farani Azevedo, permanent representative of the Brazilian mission to the UN and other international organizations in Geneva, as the new chairperson of the Executive Committee (EXCOM). The choice was made on October 9, during the closing of the 71st session of EXCOM, in Geneva.

EXCOM is UNHCR's global governance body and meets annually to review and approve the agency's programs and budgets, adopt conclusions and recommendations on international protection and to discuss a range of administrative, financial and procedural issues between UNHCR and its governmental and intergovernmental partners. Brazil is a founding member of EXCOM, which was established in 1951, and one of the first signatory countries to the UN Convention on the Status of Refugees - also adopted in 1951.

Read more at: bit.ly/3e2PxA

HIGHLIGHTS

Children represent about half the number of refugees in the world:

In October, the month of children in Brazil, UNHCR reaffirmed its commitment to in supporting refugee children to regain the right to be a child. To this end, a new fundraising campaign was launched in partnership with Leticia Spiller, Claudia Leitte, Giselle Itié, Fafá de Belém, Mamilos Podcast and Criolo. In addition to publishing stories of refugee children on their social networks, these artists and influencers invited the public to take concrete actions to transform the reality of approximately 30 million refugee children worldwide.

Read more at: bit.ly/3cZ1h5q

Five universities join the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair (CSVM) in 2020:

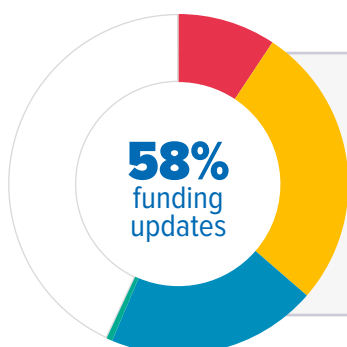
With the inclusion of the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), Federal University of Uberlandia (UFU), Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul (UFMS), University of Salvador (UNIFACS) and the University of Vale do Itajaí (UNIVALI), 27 higher education institutions in Brazil are now part of the CSVM. The chair's objective is to promote teaching and research on the theme of forced displacement, as well as to implement university social projects that facilitate the integration of refugees in the society, acting in a coordinated manner and in response to local contexts and demands.

Read more at: bit.ly/31NcB0c

Third episode of the Refúgio em Pauta podcast discusses the integration of refugee children in Brazil:

In the third episode of the *Refúgio em Pauta* podcast, produced by UNHCR in partnership with the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair (CSVM), the universe of refugee children it is addressed, revealing positive aspects in the references that children build in their routine, as well as complex social interactions issues, enhanced by the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Read more and access the podcast at: bit.ly/37PAR50



UNHCR Brazil Funding Update

3 NOVEMBER 2020

US\$ 46,6 million

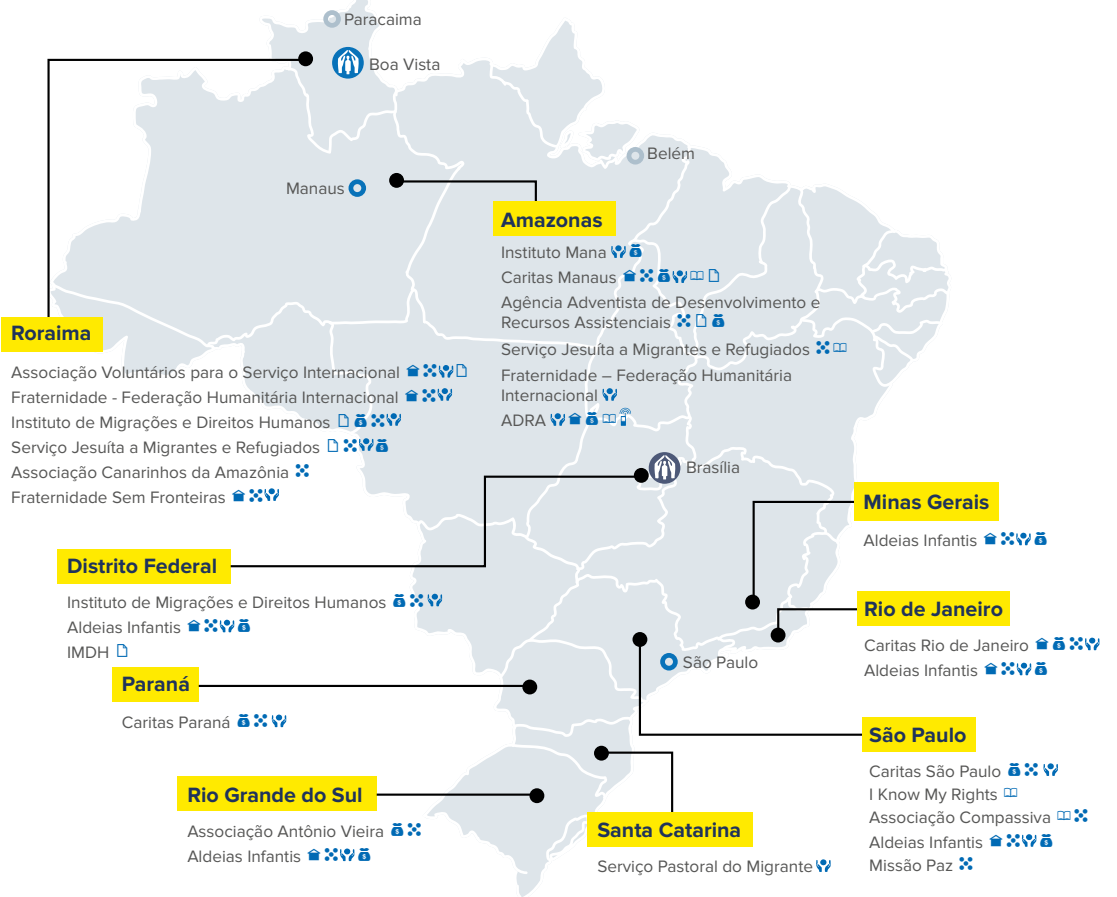
UNHCR's financial requirements in 2020

- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

For more information: reporting.unhcr.org

Brazil Operation: UNHCR and Partners

- UNHCR Country Office
- UNHCR Sub Office
- UNHCR Field Office
- UNHCR Field Unit
- Protection
- Reception Sites
- Documentation
- Information Management
- Cash Assistance
- Integration
- Education
- Telecommunications



Companies with Refugees Platform

empresascomrefugiados.com.br



HELP - The UNHCR source of information for refugees

help.unhcr.org/brazil



Plataforma de Coordenação para Refugiados e Migrantes da Venezuela

www.R4V.info

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acnur.org.br

Para mais informações: brabrpi@unhcr.org

Parceiros do ACNUR no Brasil:



O ACNUR Brasil agradece o apoio de todos os seus doadores incluindo:



Doadores privados do ACNUR Brasil:



O ACNUR Brasil agradece o grande apoio e parceria com todas as outras agências da ONU, autoridades brasileiras (a nível federal, estadual municipal) e organizações da sociedade civil envolvidas na resposta de emergência e nos programas regulares da operação brasileira.