The COVID-19 pandemic, which has been present in Brazil and around the world for more than a year, goes beyond a public health crisis - it has affected and continues to affect everyone. People who were forcibly displaced feel this crisis disproportionately, because in addition to the health crisis, the pandemic also brings gaps in the protection and socioeconomic situation of those who flee their homes in search of safety. In this way, it is essential to promote innovative partnerships for the inclusion of refugees.

One of the means is through the expansion of sustainable livelihoods opportunities since entrepreneurship has proven to be a viable solution to generate self-sufficiency.

At an event promoted by UNHCR and the Global Compact Network Brazil, the “Refugee Entrepreneurs” Platform was launched on 10 February. This initiative aims to give greater visibility to refugee entrepreneurs living in several Brazilian cities and consolidate itself as a reference for the private sector in how to do business with refugees. In addition, the platform aims to establish partnerships with private sector actors and educational institutions to provide resources, training opportunities and information for refugees and migrants who launch or expand their business in Brazil.

The Refugees Entrepreneurs platform is a repository with valuable content such as support, training and mentoring materials for refugees and other persons of concern hoping to launch or strengthen their business in Brazil and has the support of the Entrepreneurial Alliance, Migraflix, IFC (Organization of the World Bank Group), Facebook and the United States.
In early February, 63 Warao residents in the municipal shelter of Belém were vaccinated by the Municipal Health Department (SESMA). The group was considered a priority for the municipality after the secretariat issued a technical note stating that the epidemiological, social and nutritional situation of the Waraos made them extremely vulnerable to COVID. In total, 500 doses of the vaccine have been reserved for the Warao group.

In Boa Vista, with the actions of the Interagency Health Working Group, the vaccination campaign began in the shelters of Operation Welcome. In line with the local vaccination plan, which prioritizes the elderly and people with disabilities, 4 people were identified and received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine from the Municipal Health Department.

Since 3 February, the Federal Police of Boa Vista has been issuing the Provisional Document of National Migration Registration (DPRNM). This document is provided for in Decree 9,277 of 2018 and until January issued on a pilot basis in Brasilia and Pacaraima, the expectation is that the document, which will be valid until the final decision of the asylum claim, facilitates the integration of asylum-seekers, since the paper document, although valid, was not uniformly recognized by employers and local authorities and needed to be renewed annually.

Also in February, the Federal Revenue Service of Brazil (RFB) issued a statement to the Public Defender’s Office stating that there is no restriction of access of undocumented refugees and migrants to services provided by the Internal Revenue Service, as specified in Letter No. 70/2021. In this way, the CPF – the Brazilian Tax ID number needed to access many public and private services - can be issued using country of origin documentation. This action will help refugees and migrants, especially those who entered Brazil after the border closed in March 2020, in accessing health services, including vaccination against COVID-19 and other basic rights.

The Nova Canaã shelter was reopened on 15 February to receive indigenous people and is managed by the UNHCR partner Fraternity International (FFHI). Boa Vista now has three indigenous shelters – Pintolândia, Jardim Floresta and Nova Canaã in response to increased indigenous arrivals. For the non-indigenous population, in addition to the expansion of existing shelters, two new shelters will be built – Rondon 4 and Rondon 5.

Casa 4, the last house making up part of the spontaneous settlement Embratel was closed on 9 February with more than 100 people relocated to shelters in Boa Vista, concluding the deactivation of the 11 spontaneous settlements identified in early 2020. UNHCR supported the deactivation through relocation to shelters, CBI and voluntary internal relocation.
The free e-book #PratoDoMundo, which contains seven recipes prepared by refugees from Colombia, Syria and Venezuela, is still in the spotlight in Brazil. At Rede Globo, the initiative was featured on Globo Rural's online portal and the Mais Você program, in which Syrian refugee Omar Suleibi taught the public how to make Dolma, a stuffed grape leaf, a recipe that brings many memories of his family and his country. Leticia Spiller and Venezuelan Adriana Camargo got together to prepare a typical Venezuelan black pie. The result you can see on the YouTube of UNHCR Brazil.

Download the e-book #PratoDoMundo and learn more multicultural recipes prepared by refugees living in Brazil: www.pratodomundo.com

Leticia Spiller is named a high-profile supporter of UNHCR

The action is a recognition of Leticia Spiller’s commitment to raise awareness of the refugee cause and UNHCR’s work – joining journalist Pedro Bial who has been supporting in the same capacity since 2019. The actress debuts in the new role as announcer of the new institutional video of the UN Agency for Refugees that addresses the impact of forced displacement on the lives of more than 80 million people forced to leave their homes, families and friends in search of protection.

UNHCR and the cause of refugees are highlighted in the programming of different television stations in Brazil

To draw the attention of the Brazilian population about forced displacement, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) launched the campaign “Refugees - Interrupted Lives”, aired on Brazilian television stations. The video is narrated by actress Leticia Spiller. Watch the video atyoutu.be/Vnl4n8r_6Q8

UNHCR and Santos Futebol Clube renew partnership:

Sport will continue to serve as a tool for the inclusion of refugees! The cooperation agreement was renewed for another year and aims to give access to refugee children to the well-known schools “Meninos da Vila”, in addition to other sports and communication actions. Learn more about the partnership in bit.ly/3qRJdR3

UNHCR continues to support the situation in Amazonas:

To support the COVID-19 response, in February UNHCR donated 220 beds and 200 mattresses with covers and sheets to the State Department of Health (SES-AM). UNHCR also sent 1,390 non-food items to the Municipal Secretariat of Social Assistance (SEMASC) and partners International Fraternity and Caritas to be donated and to the indigenous and non-indigenous population.

UNHCR supports the Mission of the Federal Public Ministry of Citizens’ Rights (PFDC) in São Paulo:

From 23 to 25 February, UNHCR Representative, José Egas, together with the Federal Attorney at the head of the PFDC, Carlos Alberto Vilhena, visited several strategic projects and partners in São Paulo to better illustrate the efforts and challenges existing in the protection and integration of refugees and migrants in the South-Southeast regions and throughout Brazil.

Equipment Donation to CRAI SP:

During a visit to Sao Paulo Municipality’s Reference and Service Center for Immigrants (CRAI), UNHCR and the Human Rights Secretariat of the city of São Paulo signed a donation agreement to better equip the refugee care facilities in the city. More than 700 items were donated, including mattresses, washing machines, industrial stoves and refrigerators. bit.ly/3aPCVMj

Exhibition on refugee journalists in Brazil:

In conjunction with the Immigration Museum of São Paulo, a photographic exhibition featuring four press professionals who were forced to leave their countries due to persecution marks the event, which celebrated the 70th anniversary of UNHCR and 100 years of Folha de São Paulo. The exhibition is free, continues until 30 May and tickets can be requested at museudaimigracao.org.br/visite-o-museu. Learn more about the event in bit.ly/3kIGrRB
ACNUR Brasil agradece o grande apoio e parceria com todas as outras agências da ONU, autoridades brasileiras (a nível federal, estadual e municipal) e organizações da sociedade civil envolvidas na resposta de emergência e nos programas regulares da operação brasileira.

With the support of the following organizations and private sector partners:

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

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is grateful for the support of:

O ACNUR, a Agência do ONU para Refugiados, agradece o apoio de:

Parceiros do ACNUR no Brasil – UNHCR partners in Brazil

Companies with Refugees Platform

HELP - The UNHCR source of information for refugees

For more information contact brabrpi@unhcr.org