50,475 Venezuelan refugees and migrants were relocated since April 2018

50 THOUSAND RELOCATED MILESTONE

The Interiorization strategy of the Federal Government, implemented by the Operação Acolhida, which voluntarily relocates Venezuelan refugees and migrants from the state of Roraima and Amazonas to other cities in the country, reached in April the significant milestone of 50,475 people benefited, three years after its beginning in April 2018. UNHCR, together with other UN agencies and civil society organizations, has supported the strategy since it was launched. In the next sections you will be able to learn a little about the work done by UNHCR.

Trainings and actions to support the Interiorization

570 Venezuelan sheltered in Rondon 2 (220 in March and 350 in April) were benefited from weekly informational sessions on the local job market, to foster their access to job opportunities through or after the Interiorization. The sessions covered themes such as how to make a CV, how to behave in a job interview and in your workspace and how to adapt your skills to expand your career options. Additionally, they offered Portuguese and vocational training through partnerships such as Serviço Nacional de Aprendizagem Comercial (SENAC).

38 partner organizations members participated in the Internal Interiorization Flows Training, in order to develop the necessary capacities and skills to manage with the essential protection, logistic, communication, relocation and traveling procedures, facilitated by UNHCR interiorization unit in Boa Vista in partnership with the Rondon 2 AVSI team.
11,363 refugees and migrants have benefited from the Institutional interiorization modality since April 2018.

4,574 sheltered and supported at UNHCR reception and integration centers.

244 refugees and migrants benefited from the Institutional interiorization modality in March and April, 99 sheltered and supported in UNHCR reception and integration centers.

21 reception and integration centers with 730 slots, supported by UNHCR, provided shelter and integration services for beneficiaries of the Interiorization strategy, more than 50 reception and integration centers with 1,900 slots already supported since 2018.

The Institutional modality involves the relocation of Venezuelans from Boa Vista to reception and integration centers in other Brazilian cities, where they access to shelter for up 3 months and benefit from referrals to job opportunities and access education and other social services. The centers have also stood out for receiving and enabling an autonomous integration of people with specific vulnerabilities, such as elderly, single parents, LGBTI+, people with health problems and/or disabilities.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (CBI) TO SUPPORT EMPLOYMENT

In March, the Serviço Jesuíta para Migrantes e Refugiados (SJMR) mediated the hiring of 36 Venezuelans to work in the south of Brazil. This group of people also participated in the workshop “Managing personal finances” and received financial assistance (CBI), in partnership with UNHCR. Thanks to the interiorization strategy, the hired Venezuelans traveled with their families, 64 people were benefited.

210 refugees and migrants relocated in March and April received financial support (CBI) to cover their basic needs at arrival, for a total investment of R$89,580.

For more information, see the platform at: empresascomrefugiados.com.br

For more information, see the interactive dashboard at: bit.ly/3c1QY1k

★ Out of the 2,677 beneficiaries in the past two months, 1,750 or 65% were relocated to the South of Brazil. Santa Catarina with 884 (33%), Paraná with 578 (21%) and Rio Grande do Sul with 288 (10%) were the Brazilian states with most beneficiaries relocated.

★ 410 beneficiaries of the Employment-based modality, represented 15.3% of the total relocated in these two months. This number points an increase of this modality over time, since April 2018, only 8% were relocated in this modality. Of these 410, 144 (35.1%) were women and 266 (64.9%) men, highlighting there is a gender gap in the Employment-based relocation modality for women.

★ 25.5% of the beneficiaries of the Interiorization strategy presented a case of Specific Need. Out of these, Child at risk of not attending school (98), Unmet basic needs (83) and Specific legal and physical protection needs (36) were the most common cases registered for Specific Needs.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE INTERIORIZATION DASHBOARD FIGURES:

Companies with Refugees Platform

22 employers made a first contact with Força Tarefa Logística Humanitária (FT) through the Companies with Refugees Platform, from which 7 offered 12 employment vacancies in March and April. Since September 2020, when the direct link from the website with FT was made for companies to offer job vacancies to promote the Employment-based Interiorization modality, 108 employers already contacted the initiative advertising 155 vacancies.

11 women with disabilities and chronic diseases were offered job opportunities at Iguatemi São Paulo. See Iguatemi’s practice in the Companies with Refugees Platform here.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE INTERIORIZATION DASHBOARD FIGURES:
Support in sheltering for Interiorization in Roraima

695 refugees and migrants were interiorized after having received support in Rondon 2 shelter in Boa Vista. Since September 2018, 10,321 were already benefitted with the same support.

169 refugees and migrants were interiorized after having received support in BV-8 shelter in Pacaraima. 3,178 were sheltered in BV-8 for Interiorization purposes since September 2018.

1,400 refugees and migrants participated in information sessions on Interiorization conducted by UNHCR or UNHCR partners in Pacaraima.

170 refugees and migrants concluded vocational trainings in Centro de Capacitação e Referência (Training and Reference Center) in Pacaraima, 328 since October 2020.

303 school backpacks, containing individual hygiene kits, Helpinformation, and instructive guidebooks, were distributed in Rondon 2: 63 for persons that travelled through Institutional modality and 240 through Family Reunification, Social Reunion and Employment-based modality.

Support in the transit process in Manaus

1,463 refugees and migrants were supported at Alojamento de Trânsito de Manaus (ATM) for Interiorization purposes, 12,702 since July 2019.

1,032 hygiene and cleaning kits, bags and specific COVID-19 prevention items donated, 21,119 since 2020.

Financial assistance (Cash Based Intervention - CBI) to enable the Interiorization

During March and April 2021 a total of 249 grants were delivered (a total of BRL 218,907) of which:

- 106 grants (BRL 89,580) benefited 210 refugees and migrants participating in the Interiorization strategy through the Employment-based modality.

- 143 grants (BRL 12,9327) benefited 287 refugees and migrants participating in the Interiorization strategy through the Institutional modality.

1,168 multipurpose grants (a total of BRL 1,068,623) were delivered through the Employment-based modality benefiting 2,147 persons.

1,972 multipurpose grants (a total of BRL 1,363,138) were delivered through the Institutional modality benefiting 1,365 persons.

Livelihoods and Local Integration

Here you can find the highlights of the livelihoods activities undertaken by UNHCR and its partners in March and April of 2021.

Research and Content Development

Integration of Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants in Brazil

UNHCR and the World Bank launched the Integration of Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants in Brazil, a policy research working paper series that highlights how Venezuelan refugees and migrants face challenges integrating into the education system, social protection programs and the formal labour market. On 8 April, the research was presented in an official event hosted by the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Presidency (Casa Civil) with the participation of the Ministries of Economy, Citizenship, Justice and Public Security, Defense, Foreign Affairs, Education, and Operacão Acolhida's Humanitarian and Logistical Task Force along with UN agencies and other civil society organizations.
Employment

Livelihoods committees

In the Emergency shelter 13 de Setembro in Boa Vista, managed by Fraternidade Sem Fronteiras, two community-based protection-livelihoods groups were established, one for men and one for women. The committees intend to serve as a space where the sheltered population can create their own solutions according to each group’s specific challenges to local integration. Cultural adaptation activities, CVs preparation workshops, and conversations about employment were some of the activities promoted. In the male livelihoods committee, sessions on masculinity and domestic violence were also held. Through the committee, people were referred to vocational courses promoted by partners and to the public job placement service SINE/RR and other job placement online platforms.

"Protect Work" Campaign
(Campanha "Proteja o Trabalho")

On April 22nd, UNHCR, ILO, IOM and the Subsecretariat for Labour Inspection (Ministry of Economy - Special Secretariat for Social Security and Labor) promoted the first live of 2021 of the campaign “Proteja o Trabalho”. The live, on modern slavery, is available here. The informative booklet “Am I a Victim of Modern Slavery?” was launched during the live and is available at the campaign’s website, in Portuguese, English, Spanish, French and Arabic.

HERMANITOS NGO PROMOTES REFUGEES’ EMPLOYMENT

In Manaus, during March and April, Hermanitos supported 423 refugees to access the labour market with CV preparation, referred 20 refugees to job vacancies and raised awareness for hiring refugees to 27 private sector companies. In addition, Hermanitos promoted the event How to hire Venezuelan refugee and migrant workers in line with Brazilian legislation, aiming at private sector companies, and launched Hermanitos Talent Pool, which is being used to refer candidates to interested companies.

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**Financial Inclusion**

**Providing financial education to refugees**

On March 11th, the Central Bank, with the support of UNHCR, IOM and CONARE, promoted the third workshop on financial education. The objective of the workshop was to train institutions from different regions in Brazil that will commit to offer financial education courses to refugees and migrants as part of their activities.

**Providing microcredit to refugee entrepreneurs**

The pilot project between UNHCR and Credito Perola to facilitate refugees’ access to microcredit loans named “Creditodos” was extended to Boa Vista. The project already benefited 34 entrepreneurs in Manaus, Brasilia, and Boa Vista, with the support from: Hermanitos (Manaus), IMDH (Brasilia), SJMR and ADRA (Boa Vista). In March, 7 refugees received microcredits and 8 in April.

**Financial education for people in shelters**

In order to encourage autonomy and build the capacity of the sheltered population in Boa Vista, Fraternidade Sem Fronteiras (FSF) implemented a workshop on financial education and family budget planning with 36 men and women. A second workshop was held with a class composed of 15 women.

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**Education**

**CARITAS MANAUS PROMOTES VOCATIONAL TRAININGS TO REFUGEES WITH PARTNERS SENAC AND CETAM**

In March and April, Caritas Arquidiocesana de Manaus, in partnership with SENAC, started the registration of refugees for 135 vacancies for vocational trainings in the food sector. Furthermore, Caritas formalized a partnership with CETAM, Center for Technological Education of Amazonas, for 13 vocational trainings and courses in Basic and Advanced Portuguese, seeking to offer 260 vacancies for refugees.

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**Advocacy**

**Raising awareness of New Mayors**

A booklet was distributed by Confederação Nacional de Municípios (CNM) to the new mayors elected in 2020, which includes a chapter with recommendations for the local integration of refugees. This chapter prepared by CNM in coordination with UNHCR is expected to open new doors for refugees’ integration in municipalities throughout the country. The booklet is available here.

**Promoting Refugees’ Inclusion in the Public Job Placement System**

On March 4th, UNHCR co-hosted an online workshop with the Sub Secretariat of Employment – SEMP (Ministry of Economy) with the objective to map best practices implemented by public job placement offices (SINE) on the inclusion of refugee and migrant workers on the public job placement system. As next steps, an inventory of good practices will be produced to better understand the barriers for refugees to be hired through the official job placement system and also to disseminate good practices throughout the SINE operators.
Livelihoods to Indigenous Refugees

VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR INDIGENOUS VENEZUELANs

During March and April, Fraternidade – Federação Humanitaria Internacional (FFHI) in partnership with UNHCR, promoted a series of vocational trainings to Indigenous Venezuelans living in Boa Vista shelters. 31 people benefited from certified courses in the areas of sewing, baking, and electrician training, to facilitate their insertion in the local job market. In partnership with UFRB, another 33 people participated in the indigenous leadership training, a course aimed to encourage the autonomy of indigenous communities and empower participants with knowledge on their rights and duties.

Support to indigenous entrepreneurs

In April, Fraternidade - Federação Humanitaria Internacional (FFHI) in partnership with UNHCR delivered 12 hairdressing training and donated kits containing items such as shavers and scissors to indigenous Venezuelans in Boa Vista.

Digital Inclusion to Indigenous Venezuelans in Boa Vista

In March and April, a total of 29 people, living in three indigenous shelters participated in Basic Computer training hosted by FFHI in partnership with UNIVIRR (Universidade Virtual de Roraima) and Brasil Qualifica, to promote digital inclusion and increase employability. Amongst the group, there were classes dedicated to the digital inclusion of elderly people and teenagers.

Skills training workshops

To empower the indigenous community in all five shelters and foster new skills, FFHI promoted a series of workshops in Boa Vista and Pacaraima on topics such as handcraft with concrete, jewelry making, sewing, knitting, shoemaking, nutrition, and good practices in food hygiene. A total of 75 Venezuelans was benefited.

Promoting youth employment

On April 29th, UNHCR and CIEE promoted the awareness-raising session to the Warao young refugees from Casa Raios de Luz/Caritas in Sao Sebastiao, DF. The workshop aimed to provide an understanding of the labour market and the possibilities of employment available through apprenticeship and internship. 12 young people, aged 14 to 21, participated in the workshop and were registered at CIEE.

Warao handicraft production resumes with support of Museu A Casa in Manaus

In March and April, Museu A Casa do Objeto Brasileiro implemented a series of activities in the indigenous shelters in Manaus including the provisioning of raw material and technical guidance for handicraft production, 9 meetings and workshops on best practices, processes improvement and quality control, and 3 meetings for price list development, involving a total of 17 Warao artisan women.

UNHCR Partners in Brazil:

UNHCR Brazil is thankful for the support of private donors and partnerships with other UN agencies, Brazilian authorities (at federal, state and municipal levels) and civil society organizations working together to deliver the emergency response and in the regular programmes of the Brazilian operation.