20 June is the date marked to remember and celebrate the strength and courage of those who have been forced to flee their homes to seek protection in third countries. During the month of June, different activities focusing on raising awareness and ensuring pacific coexistence were held throughout Brazil with the purpose to honor refugees and asylum-seekers.

In one of Roraima’s activities, the main entrance of refugees from Venezuela, the host community could visit an exhibition in one of Boa Vista’s mall featuring artistic and artisanal products of indigenous and non-indigenous refugees. The initiative, which was organized by UNHCR, with the support of AVSI, FSF, FFHI and Museu a Casa do Objeto Brasileiro, gave visibility to the creativeness of this population and also opened livelihood possibilities.

In Manaus, during the celebration of the first anniversary of Radio Yakera Jokonae, an initiative which strengthens communications with communities and provides them with accurate information, women living in indigenous municipal shelters could participate in two focus group discussions held by UNHCR and Instituto Mana. The discussions aimed at promoting community-based activities, including dancing and handicraft expositions.

UNHCR in partnership with Memorial da América Latina from São Paulo promoted a virtual press conference focused on UNHCR’s Global Trends report, presented by Jose Egas, UNHCR Brazil Representative. The event was also marked by the launch of the digital publication “Tradução Humanitária e Mediação Cultural para Migrantes e Refugiados” which cover themes related to the use of language and communication in situations of forced displacement.

In Belém and Brasília, children and adolescents living in shelters used their creativity in the global #dreamball design contest. Worldwide, illustrations will be shared and might turn into footballs, which will be later sold to support sporting activities for refugees.

Also, within the World Refugee Day Framework, UNHCR Brazil has launched a video with all the achievements from 2020.

We thank all our donors who support us with our tireless work in honor of those who seek protection in Brazil. Thank you all for standing #WithRefugees
UNHCR and UN Global Compact launch Fórum Empresas com Refugiados

The sports project “Fútbol sin Fronteras” kicked off on 20 June, during World Refugee Day, at Rondon 1 shelter in Boa Vista. Children and adolescents in situation of forced displacement go through stressful or violent situations. Adjusting to a new culture can be challenging and interrupting their educational activities can also have an impact in their self-esteem. The sports activities of “Fútbol sin Fronteras” will be developed with young refugees and migrants to interrupt cycles of violence, as the culture of peace and respect are as important as the talent and physical effort of the sport.

The project, developed by UNHCR and its partner AVSI, was carried out with contributions from the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration of the United States of America and will be replicated in five shelters of Operation Welcome. Read more at bit.ly/3vResgH

On 23 June, UNHCR and the UN Global Compact Network Brazil launched the Fórum Empresas com Refugiados, which aims at supporting the inclusion of refugees in the labor market and is formed by companies and other types of business organizations. The initiative seeks to promote the exchange of experiences between companies, training actions for hiring refugees, employability and sharing of good practices in the inclusion of these refugees in work environments, as well as other types of experiences that support this population. Read more at bit.ly/3hoc3oF

Since 1 June, refugees and migrants in Brazil received a boost in access to important and secure information: the ChatBot “Chama”. “Chama”, which means “young woman” in Venezuela is an Artificial Intelligence tool created to answer the main questions of the Venezuelans who are in the Brazilian territory. It also works on the prevention and mitigation of fake news among this population.

To start interacting with the tool is quite simple – add the number +551142301029 to your WhatsApp and send a message to it. “Chama” can answer questions related to priorities identified through a survey conducted in November 2020: documentation, internal relocation strategy, COVID-19 prevention, and tips for those who are looking for job opportunities. The information is developed with the support of the RadioLab Project - "La Voz de los Refugiados", an initiative funded by the Directorate of Cooperation for Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Government of Luxembourg. Read more at bit.ly/3dC6FwS

About 30 men who are currently living in shelters participate in the New Masculinities initiative, which is implemented in Operation Welcome shelters in Boa Vista and seek to create a safe space for refugee and migrant men. The initiative proposes a holistic approach so that participants can address issues masculinities can bring such as the expected role of men in society. They are challenged to think on the impact of traditional masculinity in the life of each of them and of the society, reflect on the impact it has in the physical and mental health and express themselves about the myths and fears that surround them. Read more at bit.ly/3dC6FwS

UNHCR and UN Global Compact launch Fórum Empresas com Refugiados

On 23 June, UNHCR and the UN Global Compact Network Brazil launched the Fórum Empresas com Refugiados, which aims at supporting the inclusion of refugees in the labor market and is formed by companies and other types of business organizations. The initiative seeks to promote the exchange of experiences between companies, training actions for hiring refugees, employability and sharing of good practices in the inclusion of these refugees in work environments, as well as other types of experiences that support this population. Read more at bit.ly/3hoc3oF

Watch the live transmission atyoutu.be/i23WzYs-cto
The power of inclusion

An exclusive virtual event with Goodwill Ambassador Khaled Hosseini and UNHCR Brazil High Profile Supporter Pedro Bial to sensitize potential private donors about the refugee cause was held in June. The event was moderated by Maria Beatriz Nogueira, Head of Field Office São Paulo. Marifer Vargas, a Venezuelan entrepreneur and refugee living in Brazil, told her story and explained how inclusion played a significant part in her family journey as refugees. Around 30 high level individuals from the private sector were among the attendees of the event. PSP Brazil engages with a group of nine selected philanthropists, entrepreneurs and personalities, named as Mobilizing Committee, to support UNHCR in reaching out to Brazilian society and raising private sector funds. The event was part of the PPH team’s efforts to maximize the group’s potential to engage with new donors and raise funds through their network.

On World Refugee Day, UNHCR Brazil invited HPS and actress Leticia Spiller, presenter Fabio Porchat, and Sereias da Vila, Santos women’s soccer team, to spread a message of inclusion on their Instagram accounts, and give voice to refugees living in Brazil. Their Instagram followers – 10 million people combined – learned the stories of Venezuelan Warao physician Fiorella Ramos, entrepreneur Marifer Vargas, and siblings Lexandra and Leobel. Other celebrities such as Isis Valverde, Daiane dos Santos, Iza and Cris Dias also used their own social media accounts to shed a light on forced displacement and engage with UNHCR Brazil on World Refugee Day.

PUBLICATIONS

- Infographic – Vozes das Pessoas Refugiadas (available only in PT) bit.ly/3ycrOJ
- Report – Vozes das Pessoas Refugiadas (available only in PT) bit.ly/375q79n
- Manaus Activities Report (April and May) bit.ly/3x8m6U
- UNHCR External Updates (June) bit.ly/2UXjWtY

HIGHLIGHTS

- Microcredit fosters projects for refugees and migrants in São Paulo
  Refugees and migrants from São Paulo can count with the support of a microcredit to support their entrepreneurship activities. Since 2020, almost 90 people were supported by this initiative which is granted by Banco do Povo in partnership with UNHCR. Read more at bit.ly/2UfcpG7
- Congolese refugee takes office at the Municipal Council of Immigrants of São Paulo
  The activist Hortense Mbuyi, a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo, was one of the elected members for the Municipal Council of Immigrants (CMI) of São Paulo. Since 2018 she had been working with CMI as an alternate. Her main objectives, now as an elected member, are to promote gender equality and to ensure the rights of refugees living in the capital of São Paulo are fully respected. Read more at bit.ly/3hkuVVv
- UNHCR supports Warao indigenous refugees during flood emergency in Manaus
  Thirty indigenous families living in municipal shelters received hygiene items and nets as part of the response to the rise in river levels in the city. The donation, made in partnership with the Municipal Secretariat for Women, Social Assistance and Citizenship (Semasc), is supported by the Instrument Contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) of the European Union. Read more at bit.ly/2TCMF6G

38% funded

UNHCR Brazil Funding update

AS OF 13 JULY 2021

US$ 52,5 million

UNHCR's financial requirements in 2021

For more information: reporting.unhcr.org
UNHCR Brazil is thankful for the important support of 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.