Sumário

1. Presentation ............................................................... 03
2. Introduction and Objectives ................................................... 05
   2.1 Higher Institutions associated with the Sério Vieira de Mello Academic Chair in Brazil ................................................................. 07
3. Teaching ................................................................. 08
   3.1 Subjects ................................................................ 08
   3.2 Facilitated Entry ...................................................... 09
   3.3 University Permanence Programs ........................................ 10
      3.3.1 Scholarships .................................................... 10
      3.3.2 Financial Assistance .......................................... 10
      3.3.3 Housing Assistance .......................................... 11
      3.3.4 Food Assistance ............................................... 11
      3.3.5 Student Residence ........................................... 11
      3.4 Revalidation of Diplomas ....................................... 11
4. Research .................................................................. 13
5. University Outreach Programs .................................................. 15
   5.1 Health Services ...................................................... 16
   5.2 Mental Health and Psychosocial Support ............................... 16
   5.3 Portuguese Language Teaching ....................................... 17
   5.4 Legal Assistance .................................................... 18
   5.5 Labor Integration ................................................... 19
6. Events Held ................................................................ 20
7. Advocacy ..................................................................... 21
8. Conclusion .................................................................... 22
9. Publications by SVMAC members ........................................... 24

ANNUAL Report
As a partnership between UNHCR and Higher Education Institutions (HEI) that began in 2003, SVMAC stands out not only for its role in teaching and research, but also for the various actions of advocacy and outreach that directly benefit the refugee population in Brazil, such as Portuguese classes, psychosocial care, legal guidance and labor insertion. Currently, 28 institutions in all regions of the country are part of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair, working daily on behalf of thousands of refugees.

The work of SVMAC and HEIs on behalf of refugees is more necessary than ever. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of people fleeing war, violence, persecution, and human rights violations in 2020 rose to nearly 82.4 million, according to the latest edition of UNHCR’s Annual Report, “Global Trends”, released in June 2021. This number is 4% higher than the 79.5 million registered at the end of 2019, the highest number verified so far, and confirms a growth trend for the 9th consecutive year. The report shows that by the end of 2020, there were 20.7 million refugees, 41 million asylum seekers, 3.9 million Venezuelans displaced outside their country, and 48 million internally displaced people. These numbers indicate that despite the pandemic, persecution and human rights violations continue to drive people from their homes on a daily basis. In Brazil, the number of refugees and asylum seekers has never been so high, following the global trend. As of August 2021, there were 61,660 recognized refugees in Brazil, of which 48,477 were Venezuelan refugees. In addition, as of August 2021, there were approximately 115,000 asylum seekers in the country. Thus, the advances made by the National Committee for Refugees in reducing the number of requests for refugee status in the country can be noted, including, at times, the support to universities from the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair.

In this sense, and in line with a whole-of-society-approach and the Global Compact on Refugees, the work of SVMAC and HEIs on behalf of refugees is of utmost importance. This prominent
role is also being developed within the scope of the Global Forum for Refugees, in which one of the commitments assumed by Latin American Academia is to expand the experience of university networks in the fields of research, teaching and extension, providing direct assistance to refugees. Thus, it appears that the work carried out with excellence by SVMAC in Brazil is at the forefront, since it has applied since 2003 the most current principles and approaches established in the Global Compact on Refugees, being, therefore, an example to be followed by other institutions of higher education from other countries.

This moment of celebration and recognition of the work of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair in Brazil should also be accompanied by a reflection on how its concept and performance can be expanded to other contexts. We must continue to seek the expansion of this well-articulated network of universities to other Federative Units, especially in the states in the North and Northeast of the country, as well as continue to strengthen the coordination of our partnerships, particularly to strengthen the role of the Chair as an active member of local, regional and national protection networks, supporting the socioeconomic inclusion of refugees and influencing political decisions and the fulfillment of the rights granted to these people. It is also essential to continue working to ensure the engagement of higher education institutions from other countries in activities that directly benefit refugee and host populations in their respective contexts.

It is, in fact, a great privilege to have the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair in Brazil. This multifaceted network of higher education institutions is essential so that, together, we continue to strengthen the search for protection and solutions for the thousands of refugees and asylum seekers in the country, so that they can rebuild their lives in peace and with dignity.

TO EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF THE CHAIR, OUR MOST SINCERE THANKS AND THE CERTAINTY OF THE CONTINUOUS RENEWAL AND STRENGTHENING OF OUR PARTNERSHIP!

José Egas
UNHCR Representative in Brazil
Brasilia, September 28th, 2021.

Introduction and Objectives

In 2003, UNHCR initiated an academic dissemination and training program in Latin America to strengthen the learning of university professors and students in the fields of International Refugee Law, International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law. The project initiative was named “Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair” in honor of Sérgio Vieira de Mello, a Brazilian who died in Iraq in 2003 in an attack to the UN headquarters in that country, after spending a large part of his professional career in the United Nations working with refugees as a UNHCR employee.

Over the past 18 years, the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair has proven to be a key actor in ensuring that refugees and asylum seekers have access to rights and services in Brazil, being motivated by the strengthening of the inclusive approach, protective education and applied research to consolidate the reception of refugees in the university environment and host communities. The Chair’s engagement is thus multifaceted and aligned with the society-wide approach that underlies the Global Compact on Refugees. The SVMAC is currently composed of 28 higher education institutions distributed across 13 Federative Units in the country and its initiatives generally fall under one of the following four pillars:

**TEACHING, INCLUDING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION**

The Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair promotes the dissemination of issues related to forced displacement of people, primarily promoting the teaching of International Refugee Law, International Humanitarian Law, and International Human Rights Law. This axis is the basis for the creation of the Chair, and it is through teaching that academic training and the strengthening of the knowledge of teachers and students in the aforementioned disciplines take place. Furthermore, the Chair also promotes through this axis the access of refugees and asylum seekers to higher education, supporting this population not only with specific admission notices and university permanence programs, but also offering support with the revalidation of diplomas.

**RESEARCH**

This axis of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair is focused on research, encouraging the dissemination of themes related to the protection of refugees and their local integration in Brazil. The Chair promotes the theme of international protection through curricular and extracurricular activities, including public conferences, academic seminars, and academic publications. SVMAC has been able to generate quantitative and qualitative data and provide a greater understanding of the sociocultural dynamics that impact local integration, in the formulation of public policies aimed at this population, providing greater visibility on the topic of refugee protection for the academic community, civil society, the private sector and host community.
OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

University outreach is understood as the interdisciplinary process that promotes sharing, with the external public, the knowledge acquired through teaching and research developed at the university. It can be defined by the articulation of scientific knowledge, acquired in the academic environment, with the needs of the community in which the university is inserted, interacting and transforming social reality. This process has a direct impact on the lives of refugees, and through it the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair ensures a network of support and assistance, and promotes greater local integration and peaceful coexistence with host communities. Among the university extension projects developed by the SVMAC for the benefit of the refugee population, those relating to health services in general, and mental health and psychosocial support, teaching the Portuguese language, legal assistance and labor integration stand out.

ADVOCACY AND FORMULATION OF PUBLIC POLICIES

Universities also advocate strengthening the response of governments and the influence of authorities, non-governmental partners and society at large in adopting practices that guarantee the protection of refugees at the municipal, state and/or national levels. Experience shows the potential to discuss not only the admission and revalidation of diplomas for refugees, but also various issues such as housing and working conditions, are paramount in current institutional activities.

2. UFES, Dean of Extension, available at: <https://proex.ufes.br/o-que-%c3%a9-extens%c3%a3o-universit%c3%a1ria#main-content>. Last accessed on May 10, 2021. For more information also check: National Policy of University Extension. Available at: <https://proex.ufsc.br/files/2016/04/Po%c3%ADtica-Nacional-de-Extens%c3%A3o-Universit%c3%A1ria-e-book.pdf>. Last accessed on July 31, 2021.
2.1. Higher Education Institutions associated with the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair in Brazil

Until August 2021, SVMAC had agreements with the following 28 institutions:

1. **PUC-Minas** (Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais)
2. **UFMG** (Federal University of Minas Gerais)
3. **UFU** (Federal University of Uberlândia)
4. **PUC-Rio** (Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro)
5. **UERJ** (State University of Rio de Janeiro)
6. **UFF** (Fluminense Federal University)
7. **PUC-SP** (Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo)
8. **UFABC** (Federal University of ABC)
9. **UNISANTOS** (Catholic University of Santos)
10. **UNIFESP** (Federal University of São Paulo)
11. **UNICAMP** (State University of Campinas)
12. **UFSCAR** (Federal University of São Carlos)
13. **UEPB** (State University of Paraíba)
14. **UFMS** (Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul)
15. **UFGD** (Federal University of Grande Dourados)
16. **UFPR** (Federal University of Paraná)
17. **UNICURITIBA** (University Center of Curitiba)
18. **UFSC** (Federal University of Santa Catarina)
19. **UNIVALI** (University of Vale do Itajaí)
20. **UNISINOS** (University of Vale do Rio dos Sinos)
21. **UFRGS** (Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul)
22. **UFSM** (Federal University of Santa Maria)
23. **UFES** (Federal University of Espirito Santo)
24. **UVV** (University of Vila Velha)
25. **UNIFACS** (University of Salvador)
26. **UFRR** (Federal University of Roraima)
27. **UNB** (University of Brasília)
28. **UFG** (Federal University of Goiás)
As mentioned before, through the Teaching Axis, the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair aims to disseminate issues of international protection of human rights and refugees, with the teaching of International Humanitarian Law, International Human Rights Law and International Refugee Law. It is through teaching that academic training and qualification of teachers and students in these disciplines are possible. It is also within this scope that refugees and asylum seekers can have access to higher education, with the promotion of specific admission and reentry notices aimed at the refugee population and, for example, support with the revalidation of diplomas.

3.1. Subjects

Between 2020 and 2021, even with the impacts brought to access to education by the pandemic, the Chair offered in its undergraduate and/or graduate curricula 55 subjects related to the theme of forced displacement of people. Approximately 44 courses were or are offered at undergraduate level and 11 more at the graduate level, reaching approximately 700 students.

Through the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair, it is possible to reach a wide range of students and courses, showing not only the transdisciplinarity of the subject of forced displacement, but also the efforts of SVMAC in promoting the subject. Currently, there are courses related to the theme offered in the courses of Anthropology, Arts, Political Science, Social Sciences, Communication, Law, Economics, Education, Geography, History, Languages and Literature, Public Policy, Psychology, International Relations, and Social Work.

Even with the difficulties brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, all SVMAC higher education institutions offered courses in their undergraduate courses, with 85% of them offering graduate courses.
3.2. Facilitated entry

Facilitated entry into higher education for forced displaced persons is one of the SVMAC initiatives that aims to intensify local integration processes, and takes into account difficulties inherent to the condition of forced displacement. Refugees are often compelled to leave their countries of origin without bringing with them documents that prove their academic record and/or previous admission to HEIs. Furthermore, language barriers are frequent in the first years of integration into their new host communities. In this sense, the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair seeks to provide refugees with some requirements that are necessary for entry into higher education.

Between 2020 and 2021, 17 universities facilitated admission procedures for undergraduate and graduate studies, 15 of which took place through a specific notice for refugees and/or other people in need of international protection. Thus, the Chair managed to guarantee about **420 specific places in undergraduate courses for refugees** and asylum seekers.

Currently, **360 refugees** and asylum seekers are undergraduate students, **22** are masters and **13** doctoral students. Thus, between 2020 and 2021, the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair promoted access to higher education for nearly **400 refugees** and/or other people in need of international protection. The number of male and female students belonging to these groups who are regularly enrolled, however, may be greater. Some universities reported that the current enrollment registration carried out online does not provide this classification, making it difficult to identify these people in academia.

PUC Minas has, in addition to the entrance exam, a simplified continuous selection process. Refugees can participate in this process and secure their places, including automatically moving to the social scholarship sector. On the other hand, UFABC established its own Affirmative Action, reserving places for refugees and asylum seekers, including those in a situation of economic vulnerability. These vacancies are independent of the place of study and are subtracted from those of the modality called broad competition. Pursuant to ConsUni Resolution No. 182, at UFABC, refugees and asylum seekers have 2 places per course, campus and admission shift reserved for them. UFES has 100 undergraduate courses and, once a year, 1 place in each of these courses is guaranteed for refugees and humanitarian visa holders.

**FIGURE 2.** Situation of Entry of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academy Chair
Below, see the list of universities with facilitated processes:


3.3. University Permanence Programs

For many refugees, the lack of resources to provide accommodation, food and transportation makes it difficult or impossible to continue at University. To avoid an increase in dropouts, some universities have supported students on several fronts, such as financial assistance, scholarships, housing assistance, vacancies in student residences, support with transportation assistance, among others. Thinking about the integration of these actions, UFU, for example, maintains a “Program for Assistance and Support to Students of Low Socioeconomic Condition”, through which assistance actions are carried out to meet the basic needs of food, housing, transportation, among others, through a socioeconomic analysis in the dimension of citizenship rights with the perspective of social inclusion.

SEVERAL SVMAC SUPPORT PERMANENCE INITIATIVES, AS NOTED BELOW:

3.3.1. Scholarships

There are a total of 19 universities providing some type of scholarship, including Scientific Initiation Scholarships and others that cover the tuition fee:

PUC MINAS- UEPB, UFABC, UFES, UFF, UFG, UFGD, UFMG, UFMS, UFPR, UFSC, UFSCAR, UFU, UNICAMP, UNICURITIBA, UNIFACS, UNISANTOS, UNIVALI, e UVV.

UNICAMP, for example, maintains a Social Assistance Scholarship that meets pre-established socioeconomic indicators, supporting refugee undergraduate or graduate students as a means to ensure student retention.

3.3.2. Financial Assistance

16 universities offer financial assistance to their students:

UEPB, UFABC, UFES, UFG, UFGD, UFMG, UFMS, UFPR, UFRR, UFSC, UFSCAR, UFU, UNICAMP, UNIFACS, UNIFESP, e UNISANTOS.
3.3.3. Housing Assistance

A total of 13 institutions provide support to students in terms of housing, some with monetary support ranging from BRL 350.00 to 550.00:

UEPB, UFABC, UFES, UFG, UFGD, UFMG, UFMS, UFPR, UFRGS, UFRR, UFSC, UFSCAR, UFU, e UNICAMP.

3.3.4. Food Assistance

Food assistance is supported by 16 universities, mostly through the provision of free meals in University Restaurants (URs):

UEPB, UFABC, UFES, UFG, UFGD, UFMG, UFMS, UFPR, UFRGS, UFRR, UFSC, UFSCAR, UFSM, UFU, UNICAMP, e UNIFESP.

3.3.5. Student Residence

14 institutions have student residences that can be accessed by refugees according to available places:

UEPB, UFES, UFF, UFG, UFGD, UFMG, UFPR, UFRGS, UFRR, UFSC, UFSCAR, UFSM, UFU, e UNICAMP.

UFU, for example, maintains a program that guarantees temporary residence, with 150 places distributed in 26 furnished apartments. In each one of them, students have a TV, refrigerator, computer, washing machine, water filter, stove and microwave.

3.4. Revalidation of Diplomas

The Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair has engaged in establishing revalidation procedures sensitive to the specific situation of the refugee population. This also means taking into account issues related to language barriers or the absence of supporting documents of their respective academic qualifications. Diploma revalidation allows refugees to find better employment opportunities and achieve self-sufficiency. Furthermore, as they are able to continue developing their life projects and educational/professional aspirations, refugees can actively contribute to the development of their host communities.

To have a diploma issued by a foreign institution recognized as valid in Brazil, the interested person must submit a series of documents to a public university, that will be responsible for analyzing whether that diploma may or may not be equivalent to a curriculum valid in the country. In this sense, SVMAC creates revalidation procedures specifically aimed at the refugee population, so that, ultimately, these people can continue with their studies and eventual academic aspirations and also access job vacancies consistent with their professional training obtained in their home countries.
Recognizing the difficulties of those who were forced to move in search of international protection, often without personal documents, Article 14 of Regulatory Ordinance No. 22, of December 13, 2016, of the Ministry of Education provides that people recognized as refugees in Brazil have the right to a facilitated process for the revalidation of their diplomas, so that this population has the opportunity to take advantage of the previously obtained academic achievements. In addition, the states of São Paulo (Law No. 16.685/2018), Rio de Janeiro (Law No. 8.020/2018) and Paraná (Law No. 19.830/2019) approved state laws that determine an exemption from payment of fees for revalidation of diplomas in public universities for refugees living in these states. Other SVMACs continue to act through advocacy activities with University Councils or local and state political representatives in search of similar determinations that will expand the benefit of the free revalidation of diplomas for refugees.

Between 2020 and 2021, **84 diplomas of refugees, stateless persons, asylum seekers or humanitarian visa holders were revalidated** by the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chairs. The universities with the highest number of diplomas revalidated this year were:

**UFF (29), UFMS (28), E UFPR (21).**

It was verified that the diplomas revalidated were from various courses, including Nursing, Administration, Sociology and Social Sciences, Law, Engineering, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Architecture and Urban Planning, Biological Sciences, Information Sciences, Telecommunications Engineering, Physics, Physiotherapy, Geophysics, Journalism, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Pedagogy and Art History.

To collaborate with the revalidation of diplomas, currently, 10 institutions have a specific program or rule to facilitate the revalidation of diplomas for refugees, stateless persons, asylum seekers, or humanitarian visa holders. In this case, the process of revalidation of undergraduate diplomas obtained abroad is more flexible in case any documents are lacking. The document situation can be justified and a compensatory exam can be carried out. It is necessary to present the curriculum of the completed course for equivalence analysis. The HEIs are as follows:

**UFSCAR, UFU, UFABC, UFF, UFPR, UNICAMP, UFMS, UFES, UEPB E UNIFESP.**

In addition, regardless of the existence of a rule on the revalidation of diplomas for this population, 9 universities reported the existence of extension projects or a support group from the university that can help with the documents to enter the process of diploma revalidation. Among the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chairs that have these projects, are UFU, UFSM, UFGD, UFABC, UFRGS, UNIVALI, UFPR, UFES e UEPB.

The nationalities of the refugees benefited are also diverse, but the people mainly benefited between 2020 and 2021 were Venezuelan, Syrian, and Palestinian.

**FIGURE 4.** Situation of Revalidation of Diplomas of refugees, migrants and asylum seekers in SVMAC
As explained before, the axis of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair focused on research aims to encourage and promote themes related to protection and local integration of refugees in Brazil and in the world. HEIs are responsible for disseminating and promoting the theme of international protection through curricular and extracurricular activities, including public conferences, participation in seminars, publishing and granting research grants to outstanding students and professors.

The generation of data is also a fundamental component, as it allows for a greater understanding of the sociocultural dynamics that impact the local integration of refugees, helping to develop public policies aimed at this population. In addition, quantitative and qualitative research also promotes greater visibility on the issue of protecting refugees to the academic community, civil society, the private sector, and host communities. Thus, in many cases, in partnership with UNHCR, dissemination and awareness programs are developed on the issue of forced displacement in Brazil and worldwide, in general through training for public agents and host communities involved in the reception and integration of refugees and asylum seekers in the country. Among the surveys carried out, the survey “Challenges, Limits and Potential of Entrepreneurship of Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Venezuelan Migrants in Brazil” 3, carried out by the SVMAC of UnB in partnership with UNHCR stands out.

Between 2020 and 2021, the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair motivated the creation or maintenance of 52 research groups on forced displacement or related topics, with lines of research that permeate the issue of refugees, asylum seekers and migration in general. UNHCR also encourages research work in partnership with civil society, academia and public institutions, as well as encourages the dissemination of quantitative and qualitative data on the refugee and asylum seeker population in Brazil.

These groups are composed of 793 researchers among undergraduate students (338 researchers), graduate and masters students (154), masters and doctoral students (157) and doctors (144). 94 of these researchers receive research grants from state and federal funding institutions. At the end of this report, there is a non-exhaustive list of works published by members of the Chair between 2020 and 2021.

**FIGURE 6.** SVMAC Researchers per year
University Outreach Programs

University Outreach is an interdisciplinary process to promote interaction between higher education institutions and other sectors of society. It is an educational, cultural, scientific and political process that transforms and is transformed by the social sectors with which they work. Instead of a third function of the university, extension is understood as a vision of the role the university plays in society.

University Outreach has a direct impact on the lives of refugees and asylum seekers, as it is one of the most immediate means of guaranteeing protection. It is through these activities that a network of support and assistance to the population in vulnerable situations is ensured, and greater local integration and peaceful coexistence between refugee populations and host communities are promoted. For universities, it is an excellent way to allow future professionals to have contact with other cultures, something essential for professional growth.

It is understood that the outreach activities carried out by the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chairs are diverse and not all of them fit into these five categories chosen to compose this report. In the field of Architecture and Housing, for example, UFG, PUC-Rio and UFRGS maintain support programs in this area. During the year, PUC-Rio maintained technical cooperation with UNHCR through a partnership with the architects from the institution in the Challenge Americas - BETTER SHELTER, a proposal to adapt the modules used in humanitarian shelters for the climate in Roraima. Even so, these are the five categories that cover the vast majority of activities carried out by SVMAC in extension projects.

**FIGURA 7.** Numbers of Outreach Assistance made by SVMAC

![Graph showing numbers of outreach assistance by SVMAC from 2017 to 2021, categorized by type: Legal Assistance, Health/Psychosocial Assistance, Labor Integration Assistance.]

4. [https://proex.ufsc.br/files/2016/04/Pol%C3%ADtica-Nacional-de-Extens%C3%A3o-Universit%C3%A1ria-e-book.pdf]. *Last accessed on July 31, 2021.*

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Forced displacements bring with them situations of individual persecution and human rights violations that can cause or deepen traumas for the people who have experienced them. It is for this reason that access to support for mental health and psychosocial well-being are essential for welcoming, strengthening, and empowering refugees. One of SVMAC efforts is to ensure that medium and long-term risks and consequences related to mental health and psychosocial well-being are prevented and mitigated.

Health Services

The Federal Constitution of 1988 and Law No. 9.474/97 provide the right to health as a guarantee for asylum seekers and refugees. Effective access to this right is one of the main challenges for this population. Especially at this time of pandemic, access to health care and vaccination has become an important issue.

For this reason, each year more Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chairs offer complementary services to support physical and mental health for the refugee population in general, made available by the various undergraduate and/or postgraduate courses, mainly through their departments of Health Care, Medicine and Psychology.

Some examples of available services are: access to hospitals and clinics maintained by universities, services offered by the community university for primary care and dentistry, and emergency care and referrals aimed at the health sector. In addition, activities and training to raise awareness of managers and professionals working in the health sector are also being developed by SVMAC. In 2021, 10 universities offered services in this field, with approximately 183 services provided:

- UEPB, UERJ, UFES, UFG, UFMG, UFPR, UFRGS, UFU, UNICAMP, UVV.

The UFRGS Anfôn Project produced bilingual informational materials for the refugee and migrant population residing in the Municipality of Porto Alegre, in partnership with the health sector for Immigrants/Equities Center of the Municipal Health Secretariat, NEPEMIGRA and the “Part of Popular Communication” Project, and the Association for Social Integration (AINTESO). In this Working Group, informative materials were created, translated, printed and disseminated, with themes aimed at the main demands of the refugee and migrant population, including the flow of access to primary health care, violence against migrant and refugee women, and eating and living well.
In 2021, 17 universities offered these services. Often the referral is made by civil society organizations that have more direct contact with refugees and asylum seekers. The Chairs are a fundamental element of this network of welcome and support for the integration and protection of this population. During the year of this report, there were more than 330 mental health and psychosocial support services. The 17 universities are:

**PUC MINAS, UEPB, UERJ, UFABC, UFES, UFF, UFMG, UFPR, UFRGS, UFSC, UFSM, UNICAMP, UNICURITIBA, UNIFESP, UNISANTOS, UNISINOS, E UVV.**

UFPR, through the project “Alliance of Migrant, Stateless and Refugee Women”, proposes to provide reception, assistance and legal, linguistic, and psychological support to humanitarian and refugee migrant women in the region of Curitiba, that suffer/suffered domestic and/or sexual violence. This work deals with the reception in the subjective sphere and the analysis of the social, cultural, and political dimension in which these women are inserted: understanding their trajectories and social, cultural, and historical processes.

**PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE TEACHING**

Knowledge of the Portuguese language is one of the challenges faced by the newly arrived refugee population in Brazil. Without the Portuguese language, there is a great difficulty in the social and labor insertion of these people. Not only for local integration, but knowledge of the Portuguese language is also important to ensure protection, as the local service network often communicates only through this language.

Therefore, the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chairs are encouraged to provide asylum seekers and refugees, enrolled at universities or not, with free access to language courses offered by institutions, preferably Portuguese as a second language.

Thinking about the construction of citizenship through learning the Portuguese language, UFES maintains a Portuguese language and Brazilian culture teaching program with the goal that refugees and asylum seekers can improve their communication in the social and university spheres, as well as promote a better adaptation to the environment where they live. The objective is not to impose Brazilian culture, but to present them with solidarity and the pleasure of being welcomed into a new society. Likewise, UFSCAR, through the Esperans Project, aims to teach Portuguese lessons to residents in the region of Sorocaba/SP, in order to provide better opportunities for labor insertion and better adaptation to Brazilian society.

UNHCR encourages more and more higher education institutions to get involved in this activity, as well as making more places available. In 2021, 24 universities offered Portuguese courses to more than 2,250 refugees and asylum seekers:

**PUC MINAS, UEPB, UERJ, UFABC, UFES, UFF, UFG, UFGD, UFMG, UFMS, UFPR, UFRGS, UFRR, UFSC, UFSCAR, UFSM, UFU, UNB, UNICAMP, UNICURITIBA, UNIFACS, UNIFESP, UNISINOS E UVV.**
Access to justice and legal assistance are essential elements for the protection of refugees and asylum seekers, as well as their integration into the host society. It is through the legal centers of the SVMAC that an effective way is found to make such services economically accessible to this population, in addition to provide students with experience in the field, and an intercultural experience.

In 2021, 17 universities are offering legal assistance services, providing more than 2,050 services. The HEIs maintained the numbers of assistance at around 2,000, maintaining the capacity of the previous report. These numbers demonstrate the relevance of guaranteeing this service for the refugee population, and UNHCR encourages other HEIs to develop projects and implement similar services in their planning. The 17 universities are:

UEPB, UFES, UFG, UFGD, UFMG, UFMS, UFPR, UFRGS, UFRR, UFSC, UFSM, UFU, UNICURITIBA, UNIFACS, UNISANTOS, UNIVALI, E UVV.

In 2021 UNHCR established, in partnership with the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chairs, the “Information Desks”. These information desks are intended to provide correct, up-to-date and safe information about rights and duties of refugees, asylum seekers, and others in need of international protection. UNHCR provided equipment for the HEIs, and training sessions for students who are supporting this project. Currently, there are several SVMAC implementing information desks, such as PUC Minas, UFGD, UFPR, UFRGS, UFSCAR, UFSM and UNIVALI.

In this field, UNIVALI started a Pre-documentation service project through a Technical Cooperation Agreement (TCA) between the university and the Federal Police in Itajaí/SC. Within the framework of this TCA, the Federal Police opens a minimum of 30 places every week to assist refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. This way, UNIVALI assists those people who need access to documents by arranging appointments with the Federal Police, thus assisting them with the issuance of a National Migration Registration Card, residence requests, extension of the Protocol to Request the Status of Refugee, family reunification, among others. These services provided by UNIVALI are completely free, and are carried out by students. Supervised by professors, they also have a pedagogical character, to meet the requirement of professional practice for the academic training of their courses.
It is through access to the labor market and employability that refugees can fully integrate in Brazil, achieving financial independence and self-sufficiency. Work has always been related to the prospect of being treated with dignity, and to promote means for empowerment. When integrated into the labor market, the refugee population contributes to the diversification of the economy, as well as the means of work and society as a whole, promoting socioeconomic and cultural development.

It is essential to provide information on how to enter the formal labor market, and the labor rights for the refugee population from the moment they arrive in Brazil, as well as issue an employment record card. Higher education institutions have a lot to contribute with services, guidance on labor rights and assistance in this area, as well as the generation of data on the profile and labor potential of this population. Between 2020 and 2021, 9 universities offered labor integration services:

UEPB, UFES, UFRGS, UFSC, UFSM, UFU, UNICURITIBA, UNIFACS, E UVV.

During this period, the number of consultations in labor integration was around 330. It is important to consider that the pandemic caused the suspension of many services and there was a decline in the number of hiring.

UNIFACS maintains the Project “Citizenship and Local Insertion Segment” in this field, which aims to raise awareness among the population of Salvador/BA to assist in the process of local insertion of refugees. Through the project, they intend to prepare the refugee population for labor insertion, but with the understanding that the local community also needs to be made aware of how to welcome them. Added to this, solidarity campaigns and donations are organized for refugees and migrants in vulnerable situations.

Likewise, UNICURITIBA carried out the first marketing consultancy for refugees, contributing to the process of integration of entrepreneurial refugees. The activities were aimed at improving the brand experience and the results obtained emphasized: (i) the theoretical and practical values added to the business; (ii) immersion in the analysis of strategic processes; and (iii) the indications of possible opportunities to confirm the business purposes.

Likewise, UNIFESP promoted the “Mini-course on Entrepreneurship for Migrants and Refugees”, conceived by EPPEN Jr - Junior Consulting Company, aiming to provide initial training to migrant and refugee entrepreneurs, so that they can make their projects viable, know their rights and the main bureaucratic points for the formalization of their activities.

FIGURE 9. Number of Labor Integration Assistance reported by SVMAC
Between June 2020 and June 2021, the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chairs held 266 events, including courses, seminars, workshops, lectures, conversation circles, book launches and joint efforts.

During this period, UFABC held the II Human Rights Week with the panel “Refuge and Racism: the challenge of Universities”. In addition, it launched a book produced in partnership with UNHCR called “15 years of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair in Brazil: universities and refugees”, in addition to participate in the webinar held by the Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network (GAIN), under the general coordination of Professor Geoff Gilbert (University of Essex).

UNICAMP held the Permanent Forum “Refuge and Migrations: Contemporary Challenges”, on November 11, 2020. The event had two debate tables: one on refuge in higher education and another on the contemporary challenges in the context of refuge and migration, with the presence of the Dean of Uncamp and professors from this university, as well as UFSCAR, UNISANTOS, Federal University of Amapá (UNIFAP), Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte (UFRN), refugees, and UNHCR. In addition, it promoted an event in honor of World Refugee Day in partnership with the Latin America Memorial and São Judas Tadeu University. In this tribute, a virtual soirée was held, and livestreamed on the Memorial’s channels.

UFPR launched the booklet “Valente é a sua Voz!” (Brave is your Voice!), which was developed by the extension project “Brazilian Portuguese for Humanitarian Migration - PBMIH-UFPR”, in conjunction with the extension project Observatory of Human Rights and Cáritas Brasileira Regional Paraná, and with support from UNHCR. In addition, the Easter Campaign was also launched as a fundraiser via the Abacashi platform and PIX to deliver Easter eggs and candy bags to 31 children, aiming to transform Easter Sunday for Brazilian children and refugees in the shelter home.

THE ONLINE CONTENTS PROMOTED BY THE UNIVERSITIES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE PAGE www.acnur.org/portugues/catedra-sergio-vieira-de-mello/eventos
The Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair plays an important role in strengthening government responses and helping influence authorities, non-governmental partners, and society as a whole to adopt practices that ensure the protection of refugees. SVMAC helps transform policies and services that affect refugees and stateless persons at the municipal, state and/or national level. In 2021, 18 universities promoted advocacy actions, at different levels, participating in networks and Committees aimed at the refugee, migrant or asylum seeker population, and supporting local and state governments in the preparation of reception plans.

Universities that engaged in advocacy instruments in 2021 are:

PUC MINAS, PUC RIO, UVV, UNIVALI, UNISINOS, UEPB, UNICAMP, UFGD, UFG, UFMG, UFRR, UFSM, UFABC, UFES, UFPR, UFRGS, UFF E UNIFACS.

UFG, for example, taking advantage of the 2021 World Refugee Day celebrations, organized a webinar with the theme “Municipal Reception Plan: Good Practices in the City of São Paulo”. The main goal of the event was present to public authorities of the city of Goiânia/GO the experience of welcoming refugees in the city of São Paulo/SP. This presentation was made by the Coordination of Policies for Immigrants and Promotion of Decent Work, of the Municipal Secretariat for Human Rights and Citizenship of São Paulo/SP. The event was also attended by UNHCR.
As seen previously, in the past 18 years, the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair has proven to be a key actor to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers have access to rights and services in Brazil, motivated by strengthening the inclusive approach, protective education and applied research to consolidate the reception of refugees in the university environment and host communities. The engagement of SVMAC is thus multifaceted and aligned with the society-wide approach that underlies the Global Compact on Refugees.

The main benefits for the refugee population identified within the scope of the 28 Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chairs this past year are:

1. **Education, Including Access to Higher Education, Revalidation of Diplomas and University Permanence**

   - Between 2020 and 2021, even with the impacts brought to access to education by the pandemic, SVMAC offered in its undergraduate and/or graduate curricula 55 subjects related to the theme of forced displacement of people. Approximately 44 courses were or are offered at the undergraduate level and another 11 at the graduate level, reaching approximately 700 students.

   - Between 2020 and 2021, 17 institutions had a facilitated admission procedure for undergraduate and graduate studies, 15 of which took place through a specific notice for refugees and/or other people in need of international protection. Thus, SVMAC managed to guarantee about 420 specific places for refugees and asylum seekers in undergraduate courses. Currently, 360 refugees and asylum seekers are undergraduate students, 22 are masters students and 13 doctoral students, and 25 institutions have university permanence programs ranging from housing and food assistance to scholarships.

   - Between 2020 and 2021, 84 diplomas of refugees, stateless persons, asylum seekers or humanitarian visa holders were revalidated by the Higher Education Institutions that are part of Sérgio Vieira de Mello Academic Chairs. Currently, 10 institutions have a specific program or rule to facilitate the revalidation of diplomas for refugees, stateless persons, asylum seekers, or humanitarian visa holders. In addition, regardless of the existence of a rule on the revalidation of diplomas for this population, 9 institutions reported the existence of extension projects or a support group from the university that can help with the documentation to start the process of diploma revalidation.
2. Research

• Between 2020 and 2021, SVMAC motivated the creation or maintenance of **52** research groups on forced displacement or related topics, with lines of research that permeate the issue of refugees, asylum seekers and migration in general. These groups are composed of **793** researchers among undergraduate students (**338** researchers), graduate and masters students (**154**), masters and doctoral students (**157**) and doctors (**144**). Of these, **94** researchers receive research grants from State and Federal development institutions.

3. Extension and Community Services

• In 2021, **10** institutions offered health services to the refugee population, such as access to hospitals and clinics maintained by HEIs, services offered by the community university for primary care and dentistry, and emergency care and referrals focused on the health sector. About **183** consultations were carried out.

• In 2021, **17** institutions provided mental health and psychosocial support services. The referral is often made by civil society organizations that have more direct contact with refugees and asylum seekers. The SVMAC are a fundamental element of this network of welcome and support for the integration and protection of this population. During the year of this report, there were more than **330 mental health and psychosocial support services performed by SVMAC**.

• In 2021, **24** institutions offered Portuguese language courses to more than **2,250** refugees and asylum seekers in Brazil.

• In 2021, **17** institutions offered legal assistance services, providing more than **2,050** services. The HEIs maintained the number of services at around **2,000**, maintaining the capacity of the previous report despite the impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

• Between 2020 and 2021, **9** institutions offered labor integration services, offering information on how to enter the formal labor market, labor rights for the refugee population, and how to issue an employment record card in Brazil, among other actions.

4. Advocacy and Public Policy Formulation

• SVMAC helps transform policies and services that affect refugees and stateless persons at the municipal, state and/or national level. In 2021, **18** universities promoted advocacy actions, at different levels, participating in networks and Committees aimed at the refugee, migrant or asylum seeker population, and supporting local and state governments in the preparation of reception plans.

Therefore, it appears that the SVMAC is a fundamental protection network through which the coordinat ed action of HEIs to benefit the refugee population is created and constantly strengthened. HEIs can, within the scope of the SVMAC, coordinate efforts to protect refugees by sharing information and good practices. Each university works through undergraduate and/or graduate courses in the fields of teaching, research and extension in order to strengthen an inclusive approach, protective education, and applied research in order to consolidate the reception of people in situations of forced displacement in the university life, and guarantee means of peaceful coexistence with the local community in the places of reception, including **advocacy actions**.
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