The Federal Government’s Interiorization strategy implemented by Operation Welcome voluntarily relocates Venezuelan refugees and migrants from the states of Roraima and Amazonas to other cities in the country. UNHCR has supported the strategy since its launch. Find out more about our work on the following pages.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE INTERIORIZATION PANEL

The Southeast has been the second most sought after area by refugees and migrants in the process of interiorization, just behind the South region. In total, **15,467** people have already been relocated to

- **60%** São Paulo
- **26%** Minas Gerais
- **14%** Rio de Janeiro

Most were relocated by the Social Reunion modality (36%), followed by Institutional modality (29%)

In November and December, **650** people were relocated to

- **50%** São Paulo
- **38%** Minas Gerais
- **10%** Rio de Janeiro

Most were relocated by the Social Reunion modality (47%), followed by Institutional modality (25%)

In November and December, UNHCR supported the relocation of **156** to the Southeast through 6 partner shelters and integration centers: SOS Children’s Villages in Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and Juiz de Fora and Missão Paz, It Scalibrinianas – Casa de Acolhida Mãe Assunta and Casa Minha Pátria.

STORIES OF INTERIORIZATION

UHNCR and Aldeias Infantis in Rio de Janeiro have been working since 2018 receiving refugees and migrants from Venezuela in the Institutional modality of Interiorization. In December, eight women sheltered in Aldeias Infantis graduated from Tecendo Sonhos Project, an initiative of Instituto Aliança with SENAC (National Business Learning Service), where they participated in courses of tailoring-and-sewing and socioemotional skills. The refugee women reported that the course is the first step towards realizing their dreams, which has as its main goal to provide a dignified life for their family. Ana Guzman was one of the women relocated by the Institutional modality and that participated in this initiative in 2020. She was sheltered for 3 months with her family at Aldeias Infantis and left the reception and integration center trained and employed by the project.

“It was a very beautiful and interesting experience. I did not know anything about sewing and with the course I learned a lot of things. And thanks to this course I’m working and living in Rio de Janeiro for one year now with my family.”
Institutional Interiorization Modality

The Institutional modality involves the relocation of Venezuelan people, including people with specific protection needs, to shelters and integration centers in other cities in Brazil. For more information, visit here.

People benefited by the Institutional Modality

12,867 since April 2018

5,477 people welcomed and supported in reception and integration centers supported by UNHCR

470 in November and December/2021

215 people welcomed and supported in reception and integration centers supported by UNHCR

Learn more about the Institutional modality here.

Employment Based Modality of Interiorization

EMPOWERING WOMEN REFUGEES

In the 6th edition of the project Empowering Women Refugees, a total of 70 women completed the training, of which 20 women were refugees and migrants with diversity profiles and people with disabilities (PWD). Of these, 36 were approved in job interviews, making a total of 23hirings and 78 people relocated to 6 states. The project is an initiative of UNHCR, UN Global Compact, UN Women, with support of AVSI Brazil.

COMPANIES WITH REFUGEES PLATFORM

12 employers contacted the Humanitarian Logistics Task Force through the Companies with Refugees platform, signaling 110 job opportunities in November and December. Since September 2020, 171 employers have contacted Operation Welcome offering 378 job openings. For more information, access the platform.

Support in the transit process in Manaus

In November and December, 790 people were supported at the ATM – Manaus Transit Shelter for interiorization purposes. 17,819 people were supported since July 2019.

Initiative to support Interiorization in Roraima

1,350 people have been sheltered at Rondon 5 in Boa Vista for interiorization purposes, 14,914 since September 2018.

271 people were relocated through the Institutional modality.

1,038 people were relocated through Family reunion, Social reunion and Employment based.

266 people sheltered at BV-8 in Pacaraima in the Interiorization flow 5,536 since September 2018.

1. The project has the support of Lojas Renner, Unidas, Facebook, Iguatemi, Sodexo and is carried out with the support of Operação Acolhida, Aldeias Infantis and Programa de Apoio à Recolocação de Refugiados (PARR). The methodology is from Senac Roraima.
Financial Assistance (Cash Based Intervention - CBI) for Interiorization

In the Interiorization strategy, the CBI aims to support the basic needs of the most vulnerable people. In the Institutional modality, it is granted during the period of stay at the shelter and integration center to cover food and allow access to job interviews, social assistance, Portuguese classes, professional training, etc. In the Employment based modality, it is granted to support the first month of arrival at the destination, until the beneficiary person receives their first salary.

In November and December 2021

388 installments
were provided (R$396,172)
and benefited 655 people
from 254 families
in the Institutional and Employment based modalities
133 (54%) families headed by women.

Since 2019

3,990 installments
were provided (R$3,666,597)
and benefited 4,758 people
from 1,801 families
in the Institutional and Employment based modalities.
1,128 (62%) families headed by women.

LIVELIHOODS

Companies with Refugees Forum

On 18 November, the Companies with Refugees Forum and Tent Partnership for Refugees promoted a webinar with the company Sitel Group on its experience in hiring refugees in Brazil. About 60 people participated. On the occasion, the company announced its adhesion to the Companies with Refugees Forum. The Sitel Group has already hired more than 700 refugees in Brazil. Watch the webinar recording here. And learn about the company’s practice on the Companies with Refugees Platform here.

Research on interiorized Venezuelan people:

On 8 December, the survey entitled “Limits and challenges to the local integration of refugee and migrant women and men from Venezuela interiorized during the COVID-19 pandemic” was launched, idealized by UNHCR in partnership with UN Women and UNFPA and carried out by Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), showing that Venezuelan refugees and migrants who are beneficiaries of the interiorization strategy have greater access to income and education, compared to the population that remains sheltered in the State of Roraima. At the same time, it has been shown that issues of gender, race, and ethnicity structure the inequalities experienced in the interiorization process, as interiorized women have a higher unemployment rate than men and a lower average income, particularly black women. In addition, the research reveals that there is a great potential for expanding the strategy of interiorization among the population sheltered in Roraima further highlighting the relevance of the role of receiving states in the process. For more information, visit here.

Business Forum in Manaus: Manaus hosted the 1st Hermanitos Employability Forum for Refugees and Migrants, promoted by the NGO Hermanitos in partnership with UNHCR and the Companies with Refugees Forum. The event had a total of 97 participants, composed of representatives of 59 private sector companies and human resources agencies in Manaus, and aimed to raise awareness of companies, inform, and stimulate the local market about the importance of hiring Venezuelan refugees and migrants.

Hiring of Venezuelan refugees: 33 Venezuelan refugees and migrants were hired in formal job vacancies in November and December with the support of the ADRA and the NGO Hermanitos in partnership with UNHCR.

Employability Workshop in Manaus: On 24 November in Manaus, UNHCR hosted a workshop to train people working in partner organizations that offer job placements to refugees and migrants. UNHCR and MANPOWERGROUP provided tips...
In November, UNHCR signed a cooperation agreement with SEBRAE Nacional. With this, SEBRAE is committed to seeking solutions and services that meet the specific needs of refugee entrepreneurs, in addition to promoting training and solutions that are of interest to this population. SEBRAE also joined the Refugee Entrepreneurs Platform as a strategic partner.

**Protect Work Campaign:** On 7 December, the Protect Work Campaign (Campanha Proteja o Trabalho) promoted the live: What is domestic work in Brazil? This campaign is a joint initiative of UNHCR with the Ministry of Economy, ILO, and the IOM. A new written material about domestic work has been released and is available on the campaign’s website. (https://www.gov.br/trabalho-e-previdencia/pt-br/assuntos/proteja/)

**Trampolim:** on 17 November, the Trampolim employability platform (https://trampolimcaritasrj.org/), was launched, conceived and developed by the Program for Assistance to Refugees and Asylum Seekers (PARES) of Cáritas RJ, with funding from the Public Program for Assistance to Refugees and Asylum Seekers (PARES) of Cáritas RJ, with funding from the Public Ministry of Labor in Rio de Janeiro (MPT-RJ) and support of UNHCR, IOM and USAID. On the Platform, employers can offer job opportunities, free training, or hire services. Refugee people living in Rio de Janeiro can register CVs, sign up for training courses or offer services. The website is also an informative space, offering diverse content, from labor rights, opening of MEI (Individual Microentrepreneur) and documentation.

**D Day – SENAC Opportunities:** on 20 November, SENAC’s Opportunities Bank promoted Opportunities D-Day, an event with the goal of connecting its former students to companies. Fraternidade – Federação Humanitária Internacional (FFHI) accompanied 27 indigenous beneficiaries who took courses in Cleaning and General Services, Men’s and Women’s Haircuts and Manicures and Pedicures. In all, 84 CVs were delivered and 4 companies conducted interviews on the day of the event.

**Entrepreneurship**

**REFUGEE ENTREPRENEURS PLATFORM**

- In November, UNHCR signed a cooperation agreement with SEBRAE Nacional. With this, SEBRAE is committed to seeking solutions and services that meet the specific needs of refugee entrepreneurs, in addition to promoting training and solutions that are of interest to this population. SEBRAE also joined the Refugee Entrepreneurs Platform as a strategic partner.

- Ernest & Young – EY, within the framework of the Refugee Entrepreneurs Platform, carried out online training for 30 refugee entrepreneurs on 5 November 5th. The session lasted three hours and covered topics such as financial management, digital marketing, and legal assistance. EY is one of the partners of the Refugee Entrepreneurs Platform and is also a strategic partner of the Companies with Refugees Forum.

**Community empowerment via Rede Interação:** In December, UNHCR participated in an event promoted by the partner organization Rede Interação, with the Venezuelan community of São Sebastião in Brasília/DF, as part of the pilot project of community empowerment. On the occasion, 30 Venezuelan people participated in the activities, which included presentations on the results of the self-census carried out and the two Community Action Plans built on income generation and housing. The event also featured informative sessions on entrepreneurship, given by SEBRAE DF and on Public Benefits and Programs held by CREAS DF.

**2nd edition of the IntegraArte:** On 13 November 13, the 2nd IntegraArte entrepreneurship fair was held in Boa Vista, which brought together 33 Venezuelan and Brazilian people who undertake in the most diverse segments: indigenous crafts, floriculture, plastic arts, clothing, cosmetics, and woodwork. To strengthen their capacities and prepare them for the fair, UNHCR, in partnership with SENAC, offered the course Starting a Small Business. The fair was the result of the coordinated efforts of UNHCR, IOM, SJMR, AVSI Brazil, FSF, Salvation Army, Museu A CASA Do Objeto Brasileiro, Fé e Alegria, FFHI, World Vision and Humanitarian Logistics Task Force. On this occasion, Elizabeth, and Karim, two Venezuelan artists, exhibited their work. Read more about their stories here.

Venezuelan entrepreneurs at the 2nd IntegraArte entrepreneurship fair in Boa Vista, RR – AVSI Brazil Pictures: @Juliete Santos / AVSI Brazil
Empreende+ and Green Jobs: On 16 and 20 December, SJMR, in partnership with UNHCR, distributed 21 starter kits to people participating in the Empreende+ and Green Jobs projects, a joint initiative of the two organizations aimed at insertion of refugees and migrants into the sustainable economy market. Entrepreneurs also received training in entrepreneurship and building business plans.

Education

Training for the labor market: Between November and December, 104 refugees and migrants completed professional qualification courses in Manaus with the support of the NGO Hermanitos and ADRA in partnership with UNHCR. The courses were diverse, such as barbershop, cashier, concierge, among others.

Graduation on technical courses for refugees in Manaus: on 21 December, ADRA, UNHCR’s partner in Manaus, together with UNHCR and CETAM, held a ceremony for the delivery of 188 certificates of completion of technical courses given by the Technological Education Center of Amazonas (CETAM).

Courses for the sheltered population: between November and December, AVSI Brazil, in partnership with UNHCR supported the qualification of 175 refugees and migrants, through enrollment in various courses, such as: Basic Techniques in Bread and Hamburger Preparation (SENAC), Basic Automotive Maintenance (SENAC) and Preparation of Pastries (SENAC). Two courses were also offered specifically for the LGBTIQ+ population, in partnership with the Association of Transvestites and Transsexuals of the State of Roraima (A Terr).

Fronteira Digital Project: The Fronteira Digital Project, a partnership between AVSI Brazil, IFC (International Finance Corporation) and UNHCR, provided technical training in technology for refugees and migrants sheltered at centers managed by AVSI in partnership with UNHCR in Boa Vista (RR). A computer lab was set up at the PITRIG – Posto de Triagem ( Screening Post) in Boa Vista, where 30 students completed the Microsoft e-learning path.

Mãos que Cuidam Project: At Rondon 3 Shelter, a workshop to produce handmade soaps took place with the participation of 21 refugees and migrants, an initiative of AVSI Brazil and the sheltered Venezuelan community, in partnership with UNHCR. The material produced was exhibited and sold at the 2nd IntegraARTE Fair.

Workshop with women: at the Rondon 2 Shelter, were held workshops with women on self-care, self-esteem, female empowerment, hairdressing techniques and hair moisturizing treatments. The AVSI Brazil project, in partnership with UNHCR, received support from the Humanitarian Logistics Task Force for the donation of kits containing accessories, hair dryers and another beauty tools that were distributed to the 17 refugees and migrants who completed the training.

Distribution of Manicure Kits: In November, FFHI, through a partnership with UNHCR, distributed 13 manicure kits to indigenous women who completed training in Manicure and Pedicure at SENAC.

Livelihoods workshop in Roraima: In December, UNHCR conducted a livelihoods workshop for organizations working with Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Roraima. During the two-day meeting, which was attended by 17 organizations, the scenario of socioeconomic integration of the population of interest was discussed, the work of each organization was better known, strengthening coordination between actors and initiatives.

Training courses in Pacaraima: in November and December, 83 refugees and migrants completed vocational courses at the Training and Reference Center (CCR) in Pacaraima, making a total of 502 people since October 2020.
Training course on Local Integration and Protection of Refugees: In November and December, UNHCR’s São Paulo office promoted a series of training sessions focused on local integration and protection on the refugee population. Together with Universidade Salvador (UNIFACS), which is a member of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair, it trained 30 public servants in the municipality of Lauro de Freitas/BA.

Preparation for the labor market: In November, 21 Venezuelan indigenous people who took courses in cleaning at the Cultural and Indigenous Training Center (an FFHI initiative in partnership with UNHCR and Operation Welcome received mentoring to enter the formal labor market. With support from World Vision, participants learned about labor rights, where to look for work in Brazil, writing CVs and how to prepare for a job interview.

Warao Handcraft: From 7 to 12 December, 44 artisans from Pintolândia and Jardim Floresta shelters in Boa Vista, participants in the Project for the establishment of a production chain and sale of Warao handicrafts, led by the organization Museu A CASA Do Objeto Brasileiro in partnership with UNHCR and IDB, sent pieces to the 32ª Feira Nacional de Artesanato (32nd National Handcraft Fair) in Belo Horizonte/MG, at the invitation of the Programa de Artesanato de Roraima (Roraima Handcraft Program). During the 6 days of the event, more than 100 pieces were sold and R$5,650.00 was raised.

Christmas Cultural Fair: On 11 December, FFHI promoted the Christmas Cultural Fair, an event opened to the public that took place at the Cultural and Indigenous Training Center (CCFI). In all, 40 entrepreneurs from the 4 indigenous shelters in Boa Vista and 10 guests from local indigenous organizations participated. In addition to the sale of products, cultural activities were carried out with performances of traditional music and dance to promote peaceful coexistence with the host community and Indigenous interculturality.

Donation of hygiene items: In November and December, 337 hygiene items were donated to the Casa Resgate shelter and integration center, which receives interiorized people, and to the Municipal Department of Social Development (SEDES) which manages a shelter for Warao indigenous people in the city of Palmas. Donations support the population with their basic needs so that they have dignity and security to seek their socioeconomic insertion.

Advocacy

With Cáritas Brasileira Regional do Paraná (CAPR), there were 36 public servants from the education and social assistance networks in Maringá/PR. In partnership with the State Committee for Assistance to Migrants, Refugees, Stateless Persons and Victims of Human Trafficking in Rio Grande do Sul (COMIRAT-RS) and the Jesuit Service of Migrants and Refugees (SJMR), 132 public service employees participated.

Livelihoods for Indigenous Refugees

UNHCR Partners in Brazil:

UNHCR Brazil is thankful for the support of private donors and:

UNHCR’s private sector donors:

UNHCR Brazil is also 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.